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Monday May 26 1997

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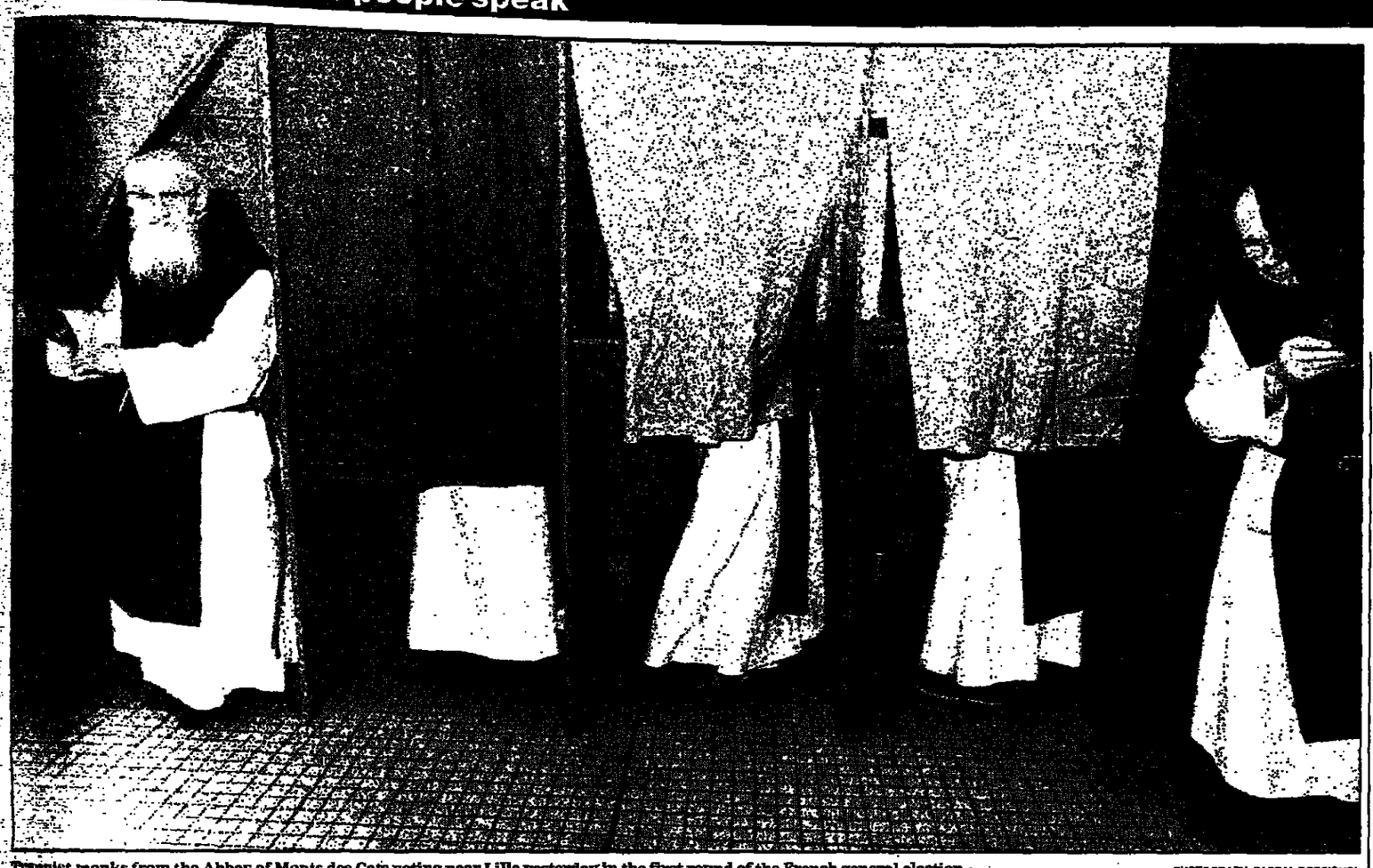

Trappist monks from the Abbey of Monts des Cats voting near Lille yesterday in the first round of the French general election PHOTOGRAPH: PASCAL ROSSIGNOL

Exit polls show Juppé heading for defeat

Paul Webster and Jonathan Steele in Paris

WITH the ruling conservative coalition of the prime minister, Alain Juppé, fighting for its life after a catastrophic result in yesterday's French general election first round, the National Front appeared set to provide the decisive blow in the second round on Sunday.

Members of the Gaullist RPR and the centre-right UDF will lose well over 200 of their 480 seats to Communists and Socialists if voting trends shown yesterday are confirmed. But with 15 per cent of the vote, its best ever showing, the rightwing National Front will maintain several candidates in the second round to undermine the orthodox right and ensure a convincing leftwing victory.

The National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, said that President Jacques Chirac had thrown himself into the battle and had been beaten. "He should leave," he added.

According to estimates by the national TF1 network made when the polls closed, the combined Socialist and Communist vote was 36.5 per cent, enough to win between 263 and 302 seats in the 577-member National Assembly.

The combined Gaullist-UDF vote was estimated at 31.5 per cent, equivalent to about 255 to 287 seats. The National Front could win three seats. Exit polls on the state-run FR2 station showed an even worse score for the right.

The Gaullist justice minister, Jacques Toubon, admitted that it was a bad result for the government, which came to power in a landslide in 1993.

Bruno Mégret, the National Front's second most powerful figure, gloated at the opportunity of playing an arbitrating role in the second round and described his party's vote as a great success. Several National Front candidates scored the 12.5 per cent necessary to stand in Sunday's run-off and announced their readiness to stand to split the rightwing vote.

The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, urged the left to unite for victory in the next round. "I call on all those who want a more balanced government and a new policy for France to unite ... All those who aspire to change must unite because a change of majority is possible and desirable," he said.

Because of several factors, notably late results from 22 overseas territory constituencies that mostly vote for the right, and a high abstention rate, the former Socialist prime minister, Laurent Fabius, said it was too early for triumphalism.

But Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who leads the Citizens' Movement within the combined left, said there was no doubt that President Chirac had lost his gamble of calling an election nearly a year before the due date in the hope of winning a period of stability before negotiations on Europe.

On a purely constitutional level, government defeat will not affect Mr Chirac, who has five years of his mandate to run. The late François Mitterrand, a Socialist president, twice governed with rightwing prime ministers.

If the predictions are confirmed, Mr Jospin will be the next prime minister, but the Communists want to form part of the government.

International survey shows more than a third of population of England and Wales have been victims

Top of crime league

Risk of attack as high as in US

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

ENGLAND and Wales have a worse crime record than nearly every other major industrialised nation — including the US — according to a new international survey obtained by the Guardian.

The survey of crime victims in 11 countries shows that people in England and Wales are the most likely to be victims of crime and face the highest risks of being burgled or having their car stolen in the industrialised western world.

It also shows that England and Wales have as high a level of "contact crime" — which covers robbery, assaults, and sexual attacks on women — as has America, with people in both countries facing roughly the same risk of attack. This is about three out of 100 people each year.

These findings show that the legacy of Michael Howard's time as Home Secretary is a country which is described by the official international survey as still "one of the most pressured by crime" in the western world. This is despite the small fall in the official police crime figures since 1993.

At best the survey shows that the former Conservative government only managed to "stabilise" a crime rate which had more than doubled between 1979 and 1991. At the same time, the risk of becoming a crime victim was actually reduced in the US and Canada.

The preliminary findings of the 1996 International Crime Victimisation Survey were reported to a European Union conference in the Netherlands earlier this month in a paper prepared by the Dutch Ministry of Justice and the British Home Office. The full results and conclusions will not be published until July.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said the survey's findings showed the measure of the challenge facing the police. "More than a third of people in England and Wales reported having been victims of crime in the past year — a record worse than the US and beaten only by the Netherlands," he said.

The survey is based on interviews in 11 industrialised countries: England and Wales, the US, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Scotland, Switzerland, France, Netherlands, Austria and Northern Ireland. The survey, which has been running since 1989, is regarded as one of the most authoritative international comparisons of crime.

Its findings show that the Netherlands and England and Wales are jointly the most prone to crime of the countries surveyed, followed by Switzerland, Scotland, France, Canada, the US, Sweden, Finland, Austria, and finally Northern Ireland.

When this league table is adjusted to take account of the "seriousness" of the crimes committed, England and Wales actually come out at the top of the league table with the Netherlands second. On this weighting the US moves up to third place while Scotland falls back to seventh and Switzerland also moves down.

The position of Northern Ireland at the bottom of this league confirms that the province is still one of the safest parts of Western Europe when it comes to ordinary crime.

The position of the Netherlands at the top of the international league table is mirrored by a sharp fall in public confidence in the police there. Only 45 per cent of people think they are doing a good job.

This compares with a satisfaction rating of 68 per cent for the police in England and Wales and Scotland, showing that on one yardstick at least the UK is doing better than most of the industrialised world in this international crime league.

Amongst the survey's other findings are the fact that people in England and Wales feel more unsafe on the streets after dark than in any other of the 11 countries covered.

England and Wales also came highest in the international league table of crime when it came to the risk of being burgled, or having your car stolen or broken into.

Crime fears lead to street anxiety, page 5; Leader comment, page 8

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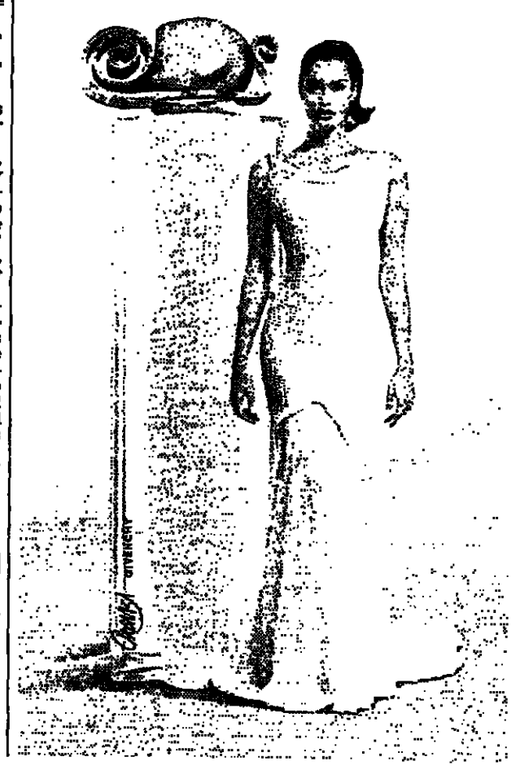

Runway rage – they're down, and a long way from out

As the bailiffs begin evicting Manchester runway protesters, **John Vidal** describes the hazards and compensations of the underground life

IT'S nine at night and two men are damming a deep-sided gulley leading through oak and elm woods down to the polluted river Bollin. As the planes take off just 800 yards away, the clay sods thud into a rudimentary earthwork. It is reassuring. The old technology works. In minutes a pond appears.

Muppet Dave and Denise sit smoking roll-ups 30 ft above the shovellers in a tarpaulin shelter. Between the two tunnellers, like a Cyclops eye, is the black, gaping main shaft of the Cake Hole tunnel.

The man trained to kill (Dave was a squaddie) and the woman trained to care (Denise is a state-registered nurse) approve the dam-maker's work. The police and bailiff may try to storm the Cake Hole via the gulley. The water will delay them a second or two — perhaps the difference between them bolting like rabbits down their hole and being led away with their workmanship untested.

There's a scratching sound deep within the shaft; then a narrow beam of light and a tousled head pops through the trap door. Logic (Matt), the third Cake Holer, has been putting up shelves in his chamber — a hole dug to fit batteries and possessions. He passes up a sack of clay, which like 40 other tons has been chipped away with hammer and chisel by people lying upside-down. It joins the dam.

Matt in the Cake Hole tunnel PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW TESTA

The three tunnellers sit staring into their hole. With their head torches on they look like young surgeons considering a difficult operation. They smell of woodsmoke, earth and garlic. The talk is of politics and development, the humour is at the gallows end of black. But their minds are on this week.

As the eviction begins, the three have physically and mentally cut themselves off from those who remain above ground, like the tree people, "pixies" (saboteurs), the brew crew, the media tarts and all the other protesters.

It is a variation of a condition known as "tunnel fever", something which hits everyone who spends time digging below. The symptoms are not wanting to come up for air, losing all track of time and place, and spending whole days underground.

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Now the locals are up in arms

Runway rage – the sky's the limit

Residents of the Cheshire village of Mobberley protest yesterday as evictions begin of demonstrators camped at Manchester airport's new runway site PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL NOBLE

continued from page 1

"It become's your life. You find yourself digging 12 or 15 hours a day, dreaming of tunnels." says Matt. "You have meals sent down to you. It becomes impossible to come out, obsessional."

By 2am on Saturday night the wind has blown off the rain. There are howls from the woods where the occupants of Battle Star Galactica, a multi-storey tree-house are in full song. In the distance there are screams as look-outs spot security guards or police in the undergrowth.

Denise goes to bed first. She is two months pregnant and just starting morning sickness. Her protest is at what she calls the naked profiteering of the airport and at the future of her unborn child. "Yes, I'm pregnant. Just pregnant. Only pregnant. It's a state of being, not a contagious illness. I'm prepared to be at risk when I'm underground. but I'm just as much at risk wherever I choose to voice my defence. I am no terrorist. Just a pregnant woman afraid for the future of her child."

Denise will wriggle perhaps 90 feet to her chamber at the far end of the Cake Hole. Her journey involves twisting, several turns up and down hill some of which are easiest done backwards. It will take almost 10 minutes. In no place is the tunnel more than three feet by three feet. Almost all of it is well-shored, but her chamber has much bare earth.

Her chamber is at the back of the tunnel, with only token wooden shoring. A sign at her door says: "Hello boys, don't forget to wipe your feet." She has decorated her hole with stars and angels her mum sent. She will leave behind an amethyst and has buried a crystal for protection.

Logic goes next. The former NHS auditor from Lancashire is 23, bright as a button and into gadgets, computers and hi-tech. He started the tunnel six months ago and his chamber is eight foot long, 32 inches high and three foot wide. He has friends' pictures on the wall, and there's one of Swampy in Armani clothes which was published in the Daily Express. There's also a poem by Carol Batter that ends:

Even though I'm Mad/And Even if I'm Mental/There are moments in my life/I believe I'm influential."

He has copies of The English Patient and he has rigged up an amplifier. When the doors slam shut and the bailiffs pump in their own air supply he'll use it to generate his own electric lights.

Muppet is next. His totally unshored chamber is a sanctuary with small shelves for precious possessions. He, too, has taken down stones to return to the earth. He has planted seeds which have germinated and are now eight inches high.

Last, I head down. I have slept behind the third metal door for the past week. My "tat" (clothes, sleeping bag, possessions) are stashed behind a metal door with my eviction store of dry fruits, nuts, salami, and chocolates.

I can neither sit nor crawl. Getting into a sleeping bag takes eight minutes; boots off four; having a drink two; a pee (into a bottle) six; turning over takes a minute; turning round involves backing down the corridor into another chamber and manoeuvring like a car. It takes 10 minutes.

Apart from planes and the thunder, the silence 15 feet below and 30 feet into the hillside is absolute, the darkness complete. Within 10 minutes there is no sense of time. Touch becomes vital, the earth is damp. It helps to hold the wooden shoring, but there is no claustrophobia. For the first two nights the air was full of dust and tasted as foul as any poison. It is much better now since Muppet and Logic have installed computer fans to suck air through plastic pipes leading outside.

Oxygen deprivation is the most serious hazard facing tunnellers — more even than fear of cave-in. As mountaineers know, it leads to hallucinations, wild dreams and asphyxiation. Before the new air-conditioning it could take 15 minutes to recover from the exertion needed to reach a chamber and half an hour to recover from a night's sleep. All have hallucinated below from lack of oxygen.

"Once I physically couldn't get out. I was seeing animals and strange lights. Another time we all came out like absolute zombies," says Dave. Candles regularly would not burn nor matches light.

There are compensations. In this place of total stillness the acoustics are fabulous. Vaughan Williams's The Lark Ascending becomes a poem of pure sound, oddly suitable for subterranean homesickness. Even Abba — one of Muppet's favourites — has quality. Only the jets shudder the harmonies.

The tunnellers are ever alert for the eviction: at night they will be woken by the intercom. Neville, a former Grenadier guardsman, will be locked onto the trap-door and will shout the alarm. In the day there will be perhaps 30 seconds for everyone to get below ground. The doors (I am forbidden to say how many, but some are structural, some are metal and all designed to cause maximum trouble) will slam shut and the cheers should just be heard above.

Cake Hole has learnt from the tunnel experiences of Swampy and Co at Fairmile. There is champagne and salmon. Fine brandies and cigars have been collected or donated over weeks. While earlier tunnellers gave themselves up as much out of boredom as of necessity, the Manchester ones have cards, games, music, books and radio — Virgin can be received below.

No one will hazard a guess at how long it will take to bring people out or how long anyone will stay. Only Muppet Dave has any experience of being in a tunnel during an eviction. He lasted 6½ days at Fairmile. Each tunneller will be "locked on" with chains, padlocks and even in to concrete set in the ground. With so little space for anyone to move it could take weeks. Dave says he might attach his head to the door so it will be impossible to remove. Denise and Logic have their plans too.

Up above, three Welsh bailiffs arrive. They will be sent below to pull the tunnellers out.

Bailiffs end first evictions phase

BAILIFFS yesterday ended the first phase of the Manchester Airport eviction, *writes Martin Wainwright.*

Four protesters were arrested after potholers broke through into the main artificial cave at Zion Tree camp in the Bollin valley, Cheshire, where scores of green activists are holding up building work on the airport's second runway.

They had manned the tunnel continuously since last Monday. With the camp secured, along with its smaller neighbour, Jimi Hendrix, the bailiffs moved on to Wild Garlic camp.

"They got the last three people out of Wild Garlic this morning," said Geoff Gazzard, of the Manchester Airport Environment Network. "But there's still one man down in the tunnel." Potholers were working last night to reach him before recrossing the Bollin to besiege River Rat camp.

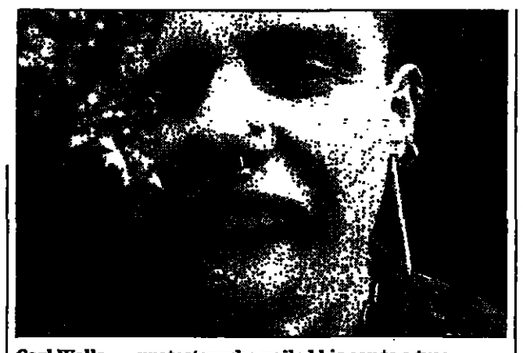
The biggest and most complex operations are expected at the two camps which lie above River Rat in the trees.

Still at the camps there are an estimated 100 defenders, with food for two months.

A spokesman for the contractors, Amec/Tarmac, said more than 60 protesters had been cleared from the site since the eviction process began last Tuesday. The spokesman added: "We are pleased with the way the operation is going and we expect Wild Garlic camp to be cleared soon."

On Saturday bailiffs working to clear the way for the £172 million runway, which will bring Manchester equal status with Gatwick, had to release Carl Wells, a protester who had nailed himself to a tree through his ear. A doctor treated him after removal of the six-inch nail.

Mr Wells was not seriously hurt.



Carl Wells . . . protester who nailed his ear to a tree

Taliban win end-game as the last city falls

Phil Goodwin was in Mazar-i-Sharif as rebels took General Dostam's stronghold

AFTER almost 20 years of civil war, Afghanistan is on the verge of peace following a lightning series of events involving those elements which have ripped the country apart — betrayal, blood feud and revenge.

The end-game was staged around the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the only major city which had eluded the control of the Taliban Islamic militia since they started to capture parts of the country at the end of 1994.

Troops loyal to the Taliban captured the city on Saturday after the leader of the anti-Taliban alliance, General Abdul Rashid Dostam, had been betrayed by two of his commanders who blame him for killing their brother and switched sides to the Taliban.

Gen Dostam controlled the north for years, in effect establishing a fiefdom with his own foreign affairs ministry and keeping the region out of the factional fighting further south. His mini-empire crumbled in hours.

The first indication of the end came early on Saturday morning at Gen Dostam's military headquarters in the town of Shibargan, 80 miles west of Mazar-i-Sharif. The mood of swagger and defiance among the troops vanished as casualties started to come in to the military hospitals. Five ambulances arrived in the town in a matter of minutes, and the four journalists witnessing this were forced to leave for Mazar-i-Sharif.

By the time we reached the city, rumours were spreading that Shibargan had fallen, and Gen Dostam's troops lost control. The situation degenerated into panic. They commandeered at gunpoint any vehicle they could find to try to escape. Wide-eyed young soldiers who had never fought a battle in their lives ran in disbelief through the streets, cocking their weapons and pointing them at random.

The rebel troops were not far behind. They roared into the city in jeeps and tanks. One tank covered in rebels slid round a corner at high speed and thundered down the main street with the soldiers on board firing into the air. The Dostam troops they encountered gave up their weapons without a fight.

The rebels gathered, high on victory, by a big portrait of Gen Dostam displayed in front of the city's stunning blue mosque. They riddled his image with gunfire, then tore it up.

Gen Dostam had already fled. Small numbers of people remained on the streets to watch the takeover. One man said: "This is it. This is the end. This is peace."

Ironically for the Taliban, the final push was made by their former enemies. The Taliban are now moving into the city in large numbers, by plane from the south and by road from the north-west. There are still small pockets of resistance in the centre of the country from some disparate factions but there are signs that their will to fight is waning.

The streets of Mazar-i-Sharif have been deserted. Men have begun to forego Western clothes for turbans and long shirts to try to fit into the Taliban's vision of how Afghanistan's people should carry themselves.

Women have mostly stayed at home. Those venturing out wore the one-piece head-to-toe garment, the *burqa*, demanded by the Taliban. The schools and universities where they had been studying have been closed down.

It is as if the country is being plunged back in time for the sake of a peace which everyone had thought an impossible dream.

Neighbours on alert, page 7

Accused nurses seek fresh blood money plea

Owen Bowcott

THE trial of two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia was halted yesterday amid hopes that the victim's family may yet save them from being beheaded.

A panel of judges suspended proceedings as lawyers for Lucille McLauchlan, aged 31, from Dundee, and Deborah Parry, 41, from Alton, Hampshire, claimed that they only confessed to the killing because police stripped them and threatened to rape them.

On the third day of the hearing behind closed doors at the Al Khobar supreme court, near Dharan, the judges announced that they would allow the women's lawyers three weeks to consult the family of the victim.

Under Sharia law, relatives of the victim can revoke the death penalty and request blood money as an alternative from those convicted of capital crimes.

Up until now, Frank Gilford, whose 55-year-old sister, Yvonne, was found dead in the King Fahd medical complex in Dharan last December, has dismissed appeals for clemency. "Whoever killed Yvonne showed her no mercy, so why should we show mercy to them?" Mr Gilford, of Jamestown, South Australia, has remarked.

Lawyers representing the two nurses said the judge had requested the Gilford family to "accept as a principle that it may be possible to reach a conciliatory settlement".

Police maintain Ms Gilford had been stabbed, beaten and suffocated. Ms Parry and Ms McLauchlan have pleaded not guilty to her murder and repudiated confessions.

At the weekend one of the British nurses' lawyers in Saudi Arabia, Michael Dark, said that after their arrest in December, they were alternately abused and then offered clemency until they cracked. "They were slapped around, made to stand up for hours without sleep, and the police trod on their feet. Their clothes were removed and they had to stand naked. The police fondled their breasts and some men tried to unzip their trousers, threatening to rape them."

They had been afraid to raise the allegations before because they did not want to upset the Saudi government.

The trial has been attended by William Patey, Britain's consul general. At previous hearings the nurses appeared in black Saudi cloaks with shackles on their legs. Yesterday they were not shackled.

A Saudi security official in Khobar denied the women had been sexually harassed. "We did not force them into confessing. Coerced confessions are useless because they don't stand up in court."

Millionaire's daughter held for Central Park killing

Mark Tran in New York

THE killing and disembowelling of a 44-year-old man in Central Park, New York, is being seen as one of the most brutal crimes in the park's notorious history. Two 15-year-olds — the adopted daughter of a millionaire and her boyfriend — have been charged with robbery and murder.

The body of the victim, an estate agent, was found floating on the lake early on Friday morning. He had been slashed and stabbed around the back, face, neck, arms and stomach at least 30 times and his intestines cut loose. Prosecutors said his killers had tried to chop off his hands so fingerprints could not be used to identify him and cut out his intestines so the body would sink.

Just as shocking as the brutality of the crime is the age and background of the suspects. The girl is from the expensive Central Park West area, while her boyfried is a former altar boy and Scout.

He is being held in hospital for psychiatric observation and treatment and the girl, who appeared in court on Saturday, is being held without bail. She had been a student at the Loyola School, a Jesuit establishment with high academic standards which requires all students to study theology. Her father is a senior executive at a food conglomerate in New Jersey.

Detectives said that the victim, who liked to drink in the park after work, was allegedly killed after he suggested that the girl perform a sexual act in exchange for beer he had bought the two teenagers.

At her court appearance on Saturday, a prosecuting lawyer said that the girl had made several statements about how she had watched her boyfriend stab the man and then slash his throat. The lawyer told the judge that she had admitted ordering the boy to "gut the body so it would sink".

Her lawyer, George Weinbaum, said: "She's charged with a heinous crime, but the facts don't bear out the charges. There are a number of facts that will come out that will prove to be exculpatory."

Police found the teenagers washing off blood at the girl's apartment building after her father reported her missing. They said they had injured themselves rollerblading. But an hour later she called the police anonymously to report the body in the lake. The call was traced and she led police to the murder scene.

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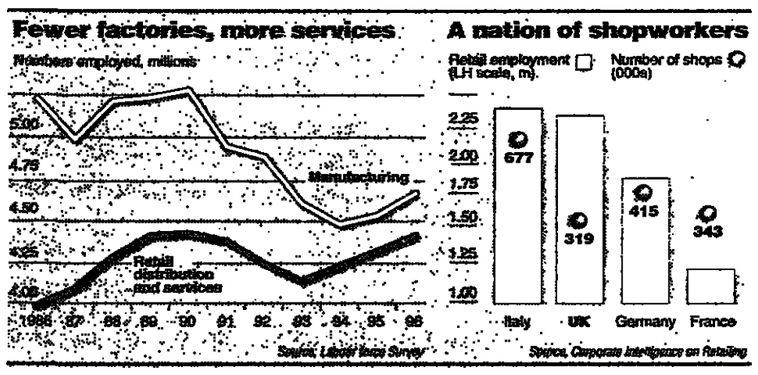
Napoleon's adage is being rewritten as the chain stores and supermarkets go on a relentless march across the land, creating jobs in the service sector to compensate for the shrinkage of manufacturing, report **Roger Cowe** and **Larry Elliott**

Foot soldiers in an ever-swelling army of chain store consumers . . . shoppers in Oxford Street, London, tote their heavy loads from Marks & Spencer PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN GODWIN

Britain reborn as a nation of shopworkers



Consumer spending rose by 3 per cent last year

THOUSANDS of jobs are being created in a renewed expansion by multiple retailers. Barely a day goes by without an announcement from a retailer or leisure company that it is to open new branches.

Last week alone, 5,000 jobs were promised by Marks & Spencer, Storehouse (which owns Bhs and Mothercare), and the pub chain Greenalls. These brought the total of jobs announced by leading service businesses to 24,000 since the beginning of the month, as the service sector continues to compensate for the shrinkage of manufacturing industry.

Employment in manufacturing appears to have stabilised after years of decline. But factory jobs are now being overtaken by opportunities in shops, pubs and other leisure activities as the inexorable advance of the multiples turns Britain into a nation not of shopkeepers but of shopworkers.

There are already 286 Marks & Spencer stores around the UK, collectively taking more than £120 million a week. M&S cannot fit its full range into many stores, which are being expanded. And this year it will open new stores in Newry, Northern Ireland, and at the Cribbs Causeway centre outside Bristol.

The chain added 1,700 staff last year and expects to create the same number of new jobs this year.

Other companies tell the same story. Over the next 12 months, shoppers in Bury, Burton and Bath will get the chance to shop at Bhs for the first time, as the chain adds 1,000 jobs.

Debenhams expects to employ an additional 3,400 people, while the leading supermarkets plan to take on thousands of new staff.

Retail expansion has been fuelled by the feelgood factor. Consumer spending rose by 2.6 per cent in 1994, by 1.9 per cent in 1995, and by 3 per cent in 1996. This surge has prompted comparisons with the 1980s, when the boom eventually spiralled out of control.

The figures so far suggest the current situation is different, with growth relatively modest. Consumer spending soared by 6.8 per cent in 1986, by 5.3 per cent in 1987 and by 7.5 per cent in 1988.

Financial deregulation allowed the country to go on a borrowing binge, imparting a sense that good times were here to stay. But after boom came bust, and it took seven years for house prices to start nudging upwards again.

Even so, Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, believes that the current situation gives room for concern. Earnings growth has started to pick up, unemployment statistics have fallen steadily for four years and consumers are about to benefit from £28 billion of windfalls from mergers in the financial sector.

Even if only 10 per cent of these windfalls are spent rather than saved, the Bank estimates that it will add 0.7 percentage points to consumption this year. This in turn will threaten the Bank's attempts to keep inflation below 2.5 per cent.

Others are more sanguine about the prospects. David Owen, economist with Kleinwort Benson, believes that the windfall gains will wash out of the system next year, so that consumer spending growth will fall back from 4 per cent in 1997 to 2.5 per cent in 1998.

Richard Perks of the retail consultants Verdict Research said: "There is no sign of the same sort of overheating we had in the 1980s. That won't happen again for a generation."

A breakdown of the official data also reveals that the reasons big retailing chains are taking on more staff might have nothing to do with a consumer boom.

The first is that big multiples — particularly supermarkets — have succeeded in grabbing extra market share at the expense of small shops. Small shopkeepers cannot normally compete with the economies of scale generated by large groups, nor with the out-of-town locations which attract car-borne shoppers.

Second, many of the jobs created are part-time, with employees called in only when the shops are busy.

The shopworkers' union, Usdaw, estimates that more than half of retail employees work part-time, typically less than 20 hours a week. Most of these are women, who often do not want full-time work. But Usdaw points out that "flexibility" often means being asked to change their hours at short notice, which can be difficult for people with young children.

Women also lose maternity benefits as well as sick pay and employment protection rights if they earn less than the national insurance threshold of £62 a week.

These trends are common throughout the industrialised world, where manufacturing jobs are increasingly exported to developing countries, and the large retailers take over the streets, using part-time female workers wherever possible.

The advance of the retail chains is held back only by planning and employment legislation in Italy, and to a lesser extent in Germany.

But it is France that has led the way in out of town hypermarkets. The key difference between the UK and France, as the chart shows, is the prevalence of part-time employment in the UK, leading to higher numbers of retail employees in this country despite a similar number of shops.

It is not all good news for the shop chains, however. Some retailers are still recovering from the 1980s boom. Last week Signet, the former Ratners jewellery chain, announced a financial restructuring to cope with the hangover of its 1980s expansion. Laura Ashley has still to return to its 1980s glory, and lost one of its directors on Thursday.

Others, such as W H Smith, are finding their business leaking away to the out-of-town centres.

Windfalls from financial sector mergers will boost the boom

The former Conservative government put a stop, at least temporarily, to the out-of-town boom. Local authorities were told that they should not give planning permission to such ventures if they were likely to damage town centres.

However, Sainsbury's and Tesco immediately turned their attention to smaller towns and smaller stores, although they still expect shoppers to turn up in their cars.

In opposition, Labour was even fiercer in defending town centres. But Mr Perks said the Government would have to bow to shoppers voting with their feet.

"If people desert local high streets because they are not being served, the Government can't stop them," he said.

There will be a huge expansion of out-of-town shoppping space this year, as centres open which received planning permission before the guillotine fell.

Cribbs Causeway is one example, while Bluewater Park, on the other side of the Thames estaury from Lakeside at Thurrock, will add to the shopping traffic round the M25.

But most leading retailers are beginning to look elsewhere for further growth. Marks & Spencer is following the charge into mail order. This was started by Next and has now been taken up enthusiastically by Burton, which has bought the catalogue companies Racing Green and Innovations.

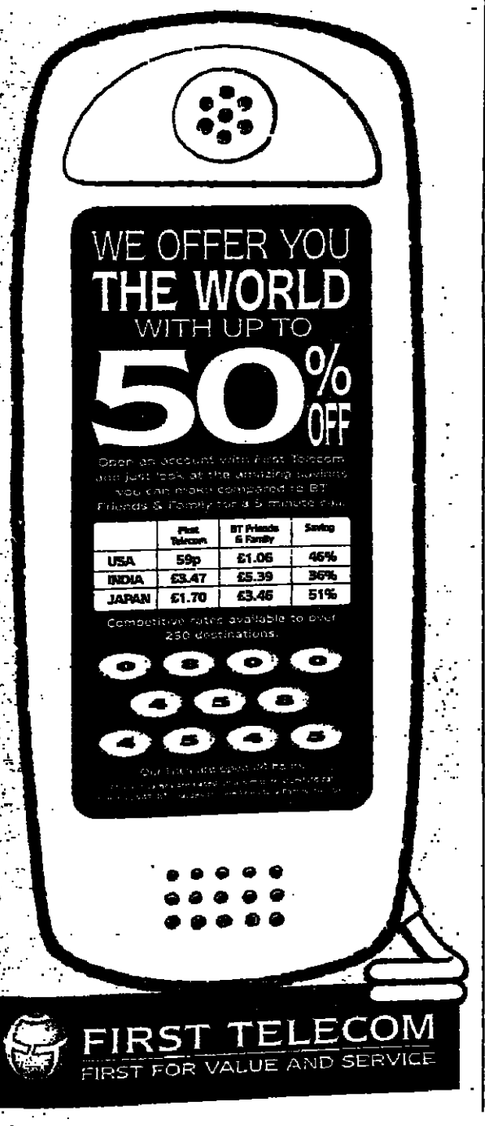
And in addition, many companies have begun to move abroad.

Many British retailers were stung in the 1980s when they tried to replicate their UK success in the US. Some, such as Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's, are still trying, but others are now looking to Europe for the kind of growth which they cannot achieve in Britain.

Tesco, for example, has put down roots in Poland and Hungary. Kingfisher, which owns Woolworths, B&Q and Comet, this week extended its continental operations from France to Belgium.

Even Argos, the uniquely British catalogue company, is planning to open shops in the Netherlands.

It is a path which has long been pursued by manufacturers, but at least so far it does not mean fewer shop jobs in Britain.

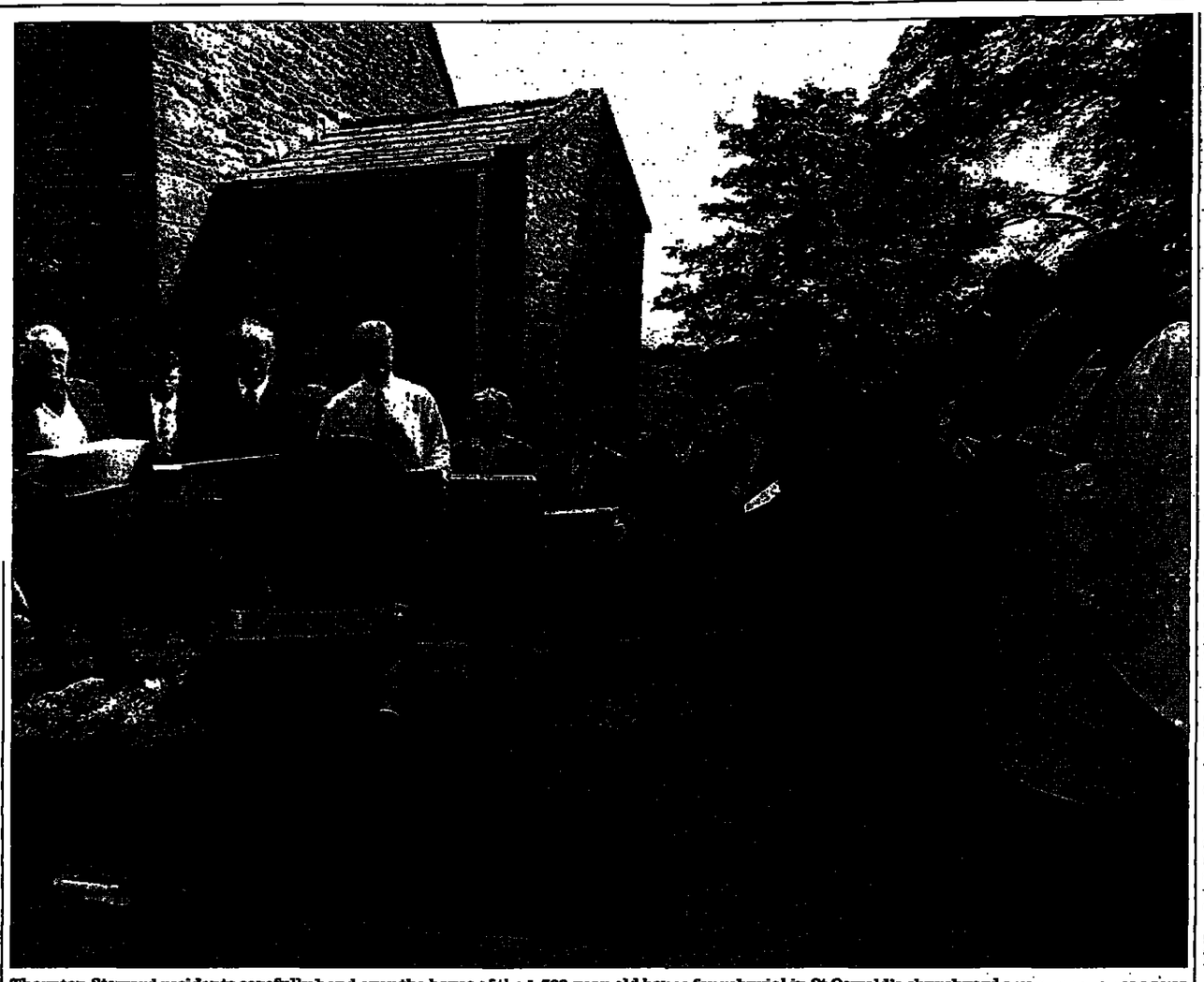


The first thing you learn when you talk to these women is that they do not operate in the same way as men. They are not generally interested in displays of power — in limos, large offices, chains of command and strategies of attack.
Henry Porter meets some of the most powerful women in Britain

G2 cover story

Dales folk from 680 AD laid to rest

Martin Wainwright digs out old bones



Thornton Steward residents carefully hand over the boxes of the 1,500-year-old bones for reburial in St Oswald's churchyard PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD RAYNOR

A VILLAGE which vanished from history has been finally honoured by its descendants, with the entire North Yorkshire hamlet turning out for a unique reburial service.

Ten boxes of 1,500 year-old bones from Thornton Steward, held in a barrel, have been taken through the village and blessed by the vicar of Middleham, David Eyles, before being lowered into a fresh grave.

The re-burial follows scientific analysis of the bones which has brought to light some of the maladies suffered by the medieval ascendants of today's community. Among the research findings made by Joy Langston, of Durham university, is evidence that at least one woman probably suffered agonies from toothache and that almost all the villagers — none of whom were over 45 — had problems with severe arthritis.

The ancient dales dwellers resting in St Oswald's church graveyard at Thornton Steward, have, in this way, contributed their bit to academic study of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking period in northern England. "It's fascinated everyone," said churchwarden Pam Henderson, echoing the views of Thornton Steward (population 117). The skeletons were found in one of the country's earliest Christian burial grounds. The discovery came about through a million-to-one chance when a Yorkshire Water drought relief pipeline was routed to avoid a deserted medieval settlement and bypassed protected trees and an ancient, terraced field system. It was the diversion that prompted the unearthing of the community, and carbon-dating of the bones showed they probably lived in 680 AD.

Archaeologist Claire Adamson said: "I was monitoring the digging when I saw something in the trench and realised it was bone." Skulls, ribs and femurs extracted along the pipeline's route made up 17 complete skeletons, in all. "You would have to go to Raunds in Northamptonshire to find the equivalent so far as early Christian burials go," said Philip Abramson of Northern Archaeological Services, who directed the dig.

"What is really exceptional about Thornton Steward is the way this community vanished, very quickly, from the cultural map. We have searched every possible archive, map, Domesday and the rest, and there wasn't the smallest reference to a cemetery, village or community."

News in brief

Man beaten to death after pub argument

DETECTIVES yesterday launched a murder hunt after a gang chased a man from a pub and beat him to death. Gary White, aged 24, was with two friends at the Primrose pub in Hawkesley, Birmingham, on Saturday at about 11.30pm when police say there was an "altercation" in the lavatories. The three decided to leave but the mob of youths caught up with Mr White about 100 yards from the pub. He died shortly afterwards in hospital.

One of his friends was caught in a shopping precinct 150 yards away and also beaten. The 28-year-old man, whom police have not named, was treated in hospital but allowed home. Detective Superintendent Dave Unwin, leading the hunt for the killers, said yesterday: "This was a vicious and unprovoked attack on a young man and it has taken a son away from a family. There was an altercation in the gents, as a result of which Gary and his friends decided it would be wiser to leave. Unfortunately we don't know who was involved or what took place."

Det Supt Unwin appealed for witnesses and for the families and friends of the gang to come forward.

Medical teaching 'suffering'

TEACHING in medical schools is deteriorating as departments are forced to focus on research to win funds, medical academics warned yesterday. They blamed the Research Assessment Exercise which awards star ratings for the quality of teaching at medical centres every four years. The results are used to determine government funding.

Colin Smith, chairman of the British Medical Association's medical academics' committee, said clinical departments were being abolished and teaching staff cut as a result. "Tomorrow's doctors and patients will lose out if medical schools become over-dependent on the Research Assessment Exercise," he said.

Girl recalls murder details

JOSIE RUSSELL, the nine-year-old who survived a hammer attack in which her mother and sister were killed, has started remembering new details of the incident, telling police more about the assailant, his car and the sequence of events. New evidence is also reported to have been found at the scene of the crime, leading to the possibility of DNA tests on suspects.

The attack happened last July as Josie, her mother Lin and her sister Meg, aged six, walked in a country lane near their home in Chillenden, Kent.

Single ticket scoops £12.3m

ONE winner scooped Saturday's lottery rollover jackpot of £12.3 million. Another 18 ticket-holders matched five balls and the bonus, and will each receive £145,710. Winning numbers were 3, 21, 23, 25, 26, 33 and the bonus number was 24.

Loyalists 'copying' IRA bomb tactics

David Sharrock and Susie Steiner

A SUSPECTED loyalist bomb was dealt with by Irish army explosives experts in the border town of Dundalk yesterday, in a sign that the IRA's tactics of disrupting England during the general election are now being copied.

The incident came as police on Merseyside yesterday admitted that they received a coded bomb warning on the day of the re-run Grand National, but allowed the race to go ahead.

The device in Dundalk, which was being examined last night, was discovered in an alley close to the town centre. Dundalk is five miles from the border with Northern Ireland and has the reputation of providing refuge to IRA members on the run.

The Irish army carried out a controlled explosion and a large section of the town had to be sealed off. Police said the incident was not regarded as a hoax.

First examinations suggested that only the detonator of the device had gone off. The material in the device was a commercial explosive known as powergel, packed into a vacuum flask with an alarm clock in a plastic bag. The Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters are both known to have supplies of the explosive, provided by sympathisers in Scotland.

The bomb is similar in design to one used in an attack earlier this year on the offices of Sinn Fein in the neighbouring borderside town of Monaghan. Although no claim was made, the UVF was blamed.

Yesterday's device was found after a call to newsrooms warned of bombs planted in the car park at Dublin airport and in Dundalk. Nothing was located in the airport. No recognised codeword was used, either because the loyalist group responsible did not wish to publicly break its ceasefire or because a new breakaway group calling itself the Loyalist Volunteer Force was responsible.

> Security forces fear incidents are only foretaste of more to come

The attack bears a similarity to the IRA attacks in England during the general election campaign. The Irish Republic is presently in the midst of its own election and security forces fear that yesterday's incidents are a foretaste of more to come.

The logic behind such a strategy would be for loyalists to carry out their promise to match the Provisionals "blow for blow" and also to send a message to an incoming Irish government that it must maintain a balance between encouraging the IRA towards a new ceasefire and avoiding making concessions which would be unacceptable to Northern Ireland Unionists.

Merseyside police yesterday confirmed they took a decision not evacuate 20,000 spectators at Aintree racing ground, despite receiving a telephone threat using an authenticated IRA codeword on Monday, April 7.

A police spokesman said: "The nature of the call made it quite clear where the threat lay. It was very specific. We were able to check whether there was anything in it. It became obvious that the threat was untrue."

He said one other threatening call was received but was a hoax.

An Aintree spokesman said: "We were aware that there had been calls but we were not aware that one had been coded. On the Monday there were searches going on throughout the race course and police were satisfied it was safe to open the gates and run the race."

The 150th Grand National had been cancelled two days earlier, after coded warnings led to the evacuation of 70,000 people from the course.

Gay spies allowed to come in from the cold

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE security and intelligence agencies are to relax their ban on gays in a further move to attract recruits from a broader section of the population.

The initiative coincides with an unprecedented advert first placed in the Guardian last week by the Security Service, MI5, which stressed the agency's equal opportunities policy. It is understood that the Pink Paper, aimed at gays, has been told its readers should not be discouraged from applying to join MI5.

Staff at the GCHQ intelligence-gathering centre, which employs over 4,000 civilians, have also been told that "the fact of homosexuality is not of itself a security worry". John Major's government six years ago lifted an automatic ban on gays appointed to sensitive jobs in the Civil Service.

However, the Government said decisions would be made on a "case-by-case" basis and the ban in effect remained in place, especially for the security and intelligence agencies as well as foreign office diplomats and members of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, posted to countries where homosexuality remained illegal or the subject of overt discrimination. Civil service union leaders have long argued that open admissions of homosexuality would mean that staff would be less open to blackmail.

GCHQ is also under pressure to lift its ban on employees whose parents were not born in Britain or the Commonwealth. Recently, Luigi Manelli, a former soldier with an Italian father and German mother who have both lived in Britain for nearly 40 years, was prevented from applying to join the centre.

His lawyers argued it was irrational to allow people whose parents were born in Nigeria to join, while banning those whose parents came from EU countries.

"If you are a control freak and you make all the decisions yourself, how do you know if the people who are working for you are any good or not?"
Michael Grade shares the secrets of his success

G2 Media, page 11

England and Wales now has worse figures than US while Northern Ireland has best record of countries surveyed, **Alan Travis** reports

Crime fears lead to street anxiety

THE FEAR of crime in England and Wales is so great that people are more anxious about going out alone on the streets after dark than people in any other country, the findings of the latest international survey on crime show.

The preliminary results of the 1996 International Crime Victimisation Survey prepared by the Dutch Ministry of Justice and the British Home Office show that England and Wales now has a worse crime record than the United States or other industrialised countries.

More than a third of people in England and Wales have been a victim of crime in the past year — one of the highest rates in the industrialised world.

The crime record is worse than that of the US, Canada, France, Switzerland, Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Austria and even Northern Ireland. Only the Netherlands comes close to this level.

The survey, whose final results will be published in July, shows that burglary and car crime are worse in England and Wales than in any of the other industrialised countries covered.

The survey was based on interviews with 20,000 people in 11 countries, covering their experience of crime during 1995. The most authoritative research on international crime comparisons, it is the third edition of the survey, two previous "sweeps" having taken place in 1989 and 1992. It shows that in England and Wales — and in the Netherlands, where there is a major crisis of confidence in the police — more than 30 per cent of people had been crime victims in the past 12 month; the US, Canada, Scotland, France, and Switzerland revealed a figure of between 24 per cent and 27 per cent, and Sweden, Finland and Austria each had a level of under 20 per cent.

More than 30 per cent of people had been victims in past year; burglary, car theft highest in industrial world

Northern Ireland had the best record of the 11, however; only 17 per cent said they had been a victim of crime in the past year.

Car theft: The risk of having a car stolen was highest in England and Wales with 3 per cent of owners losing their vehicle, compared with 2.1 per cent in the US. Thefts from cars, including items such as radios, luggage and mirrors, were highest in England and Wales with more than one in 10 owners having something stolen. In countries where bicycle ownership is high, bike thefts are high and car thefts low.

Burglary: The proportion of homes which suffered a burglary or attempted burglary was highest in England and Wales followed by the US, Canada and the Netherlands. One in 10 people in England and Wales felt they were "very likely" to be burgled.

Contact crime: The highest risks of robbery, assault, and sexual assault against women were in England and Wales and the US, where more than 3 per cent were victims — double the level for Northern Ireland, Austria and the Netherlands. More knifepoint robberies happened in Scotland, Switzerland and France; and there were more robberies with guns in the US, Canada and Northern Ireland.

Support for imprisonment has increased during the 1990s in eight of the 11 countries

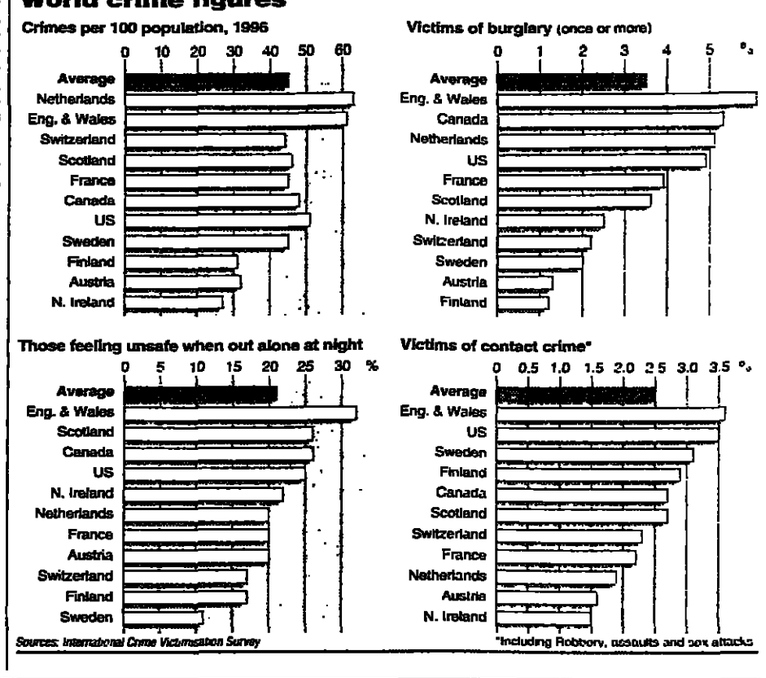
Trends: The profile of crime differs from country to country. In Scotland, France, Northern Ireland and England and Wales, half the crimes reported were targeted at cars. But a third, or less than this fraction, of crimes in Finland, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands involved cars. The US has a higher than average amount of "contact crime" than the other countries covered.

When the relative seriousness of different crimes is taken into account, England and Wales and the Netherlands "still remain the most pressured by crime" of these 11 industrialised nations.

Crime levels rose generally between 1988 and 1991 in the industrialised world, the US being the only exception. Between 1991 and 1995, recorded crime fell in all countries except for the Netherlands. The risk of being a victim of crime has fallen in the US, Canada and Finland, but only stablised in England and Wales and the Netherlands.

Fear: With regard to walking alone after dark in their own areas, the most anxious citizens seem to be in England and Wales (32 per cent felt a little, or very, unsafe). Concern was also high in Scotland (26 per cent), Canada (26 per cent) and the US (25 per cent). Feelings of vulnerability were lowest in Sweden, Finland and Switzerland. The survey authors say that while fears about burglary matched the national risk, this measure of street safety was not directly related to "street trouble".

Prison: Support for imprisonment was greatest in the US, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with about half choosing jail as the most appropriate sentence for a repeat burglar aged 21. Community service orders were more favoured in France and Sweden. The survey found that support for imprisonment has increased during the 1990s in eight of the 11 countries.



School rejected by Blairs to be axed

Donald Macleod

MINISTERS will this week order the closure of a Catholic school rejected by the Blairs for their son.

The Government wants the decision on St Richard of Chichester, a secondary in Camden, north London, close to the Blairs' Islington home, to send a warning to other schools and local authorities that closure will follow if they do not improve. The move will increase pressure on the 18 schools "named and shamed" by David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, for failing to lift performance after critical inspection reports.

Children would be moved to other schools where they would get a better quality of education, a party source said yesterday. "We are not in the business of protecting schools for the sake of it."

In a further sign that the government's first school closure will not be the last, an education white paper in June will propose powers for ministers to close schools permanently as well as shut and reopen them on "Fresh Start" programmes. At present the local authority must propose closure.

St Richard's, which has poor exam results (only 8 per cent of 16-year-olds gained five or more A to C grades at GCSE) has been recommended for closure by Camden council and the Office for Standards in Education. If closure is confirmed by Stephen Byers, the schools standards minister, it will be only the second school closed on educational grounds. Hackney Downs in east London was closed after the Conservative government sent in a "hit squad", including Michael Barber, now a senior adviser to Mr Blunkett.

The Camden school was not included in the list of 18 failing schools because it was seen as beyond redemption.

Tony and Cherie Blair caused controversy three years ago when they rejected local schools, including St Richard's, for their son Euan and sent him to the London Oratory, a grant-maintained school. Their decision offended Labour activists campaigning against opting out.

The Government's stance has shocked and angered teachers and stirred misgivings in the Labour Party. Yesterday Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, said Mr Blunkett was bullying teachers and harming schools by naming them. "The casual willingness to damage the interests of 18 deprived schools is, by any standards, demeaning to a Labour minister and made all the more so by the pretence that somehow they are being helped."

Mr Byers is to discuss with local authorities fast track procedures for sacking weak teachers. However, tomorrow head teachers will warn the Government that its plans will be frustrated by a growing shortage of teachers, particularly heads.

● Muslim hopes of winning state funding for an Islamic school are rising after Feversham College, a girls' independent school in Bradford, had its curriculum approved by the DoEE. The lack of state support comparable to that for Catholic, Church of England and Jewish schools has been a longstanding grievance in the Muslim community. Two primary schools — Islamia in Brent, north London, and Al-Furquan in Birmingham — have also applied for grant-maintained status.

Tornado Smith enjoying a drink with Briton and a detail from the sign that has caused a rift in Boxford which wants to be known for its wool trade

Sign which commemorates Wall of Death motorcyclist Tornado Smith and his lioness Briton whips up a storm in his home town

Alex Bellos

GEORGE "Tornado" Smith was Boxford's most famous son. Britain's best known Wall of Death motorcyclist is remembered for his lioness, Briton, who rode with him round the vertical wooden wall. Now, 25 years after his death, the flamboyance that drove him in his 1930s heyday has revved up a row in his Suffolk home town.

For a shield-shaped village sign, parish councillors chose traditional images of the church, the river, sheep and mill — and Tornado on his cycle with Briton in the sidecar.

But many residents have called the decision to include the stuntman undignified because he represents "vulgar" popular entertainment.

Veteran broadcaster and author Hardiman Scott said: "Mr Smith is an interesting part of Boxford's history, but for an official sign it might be getting things out of perspective. Boxford is better known for its wool trade and 15th century church."

Councillor Vic Rice, aged 64, remembers as a boy seeing Tornado walking his lion. He used to put on shows locally when he was not touring. He performed at Olympia in London and Kursaal at Southend-on-Sea, Essex. "Lots of villages would love to able to boast that they had such a colourful chap living among them," said Mr Rice.

BBC gives facelift to news studios

Programmes will reflect new non-confrontational approach to politics under New Labour

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

TWO of the BBC's flagship daily news programmes are to receive a facelift tomorrow in an attempt to increase audiences.

Breakfast News is moving to a new studio to inject a more relaxed and informal tone into its rolling news format — but insiders say it will not revive the sofa and woolly jumper look of the 1980s.

Newsnight is hoping to reflect the less confrontational style of Tony Blair's Government by introducing a round table approach to late night discussion.

The changes may herald a more widespread shake-up of BBC news programmes later in the year.

The detailed programme strategy review, being carried out by senior executives, was first revealed in the Guardian in February. It may result in an extensive overhaul to other radio and TV news programmes, including the Six O'Clock News and Radio 4's Today and PM programmes. Its recommendations are expected to be implemented from the autumn. The review hopes to widen the appeal of news programmes, bringing in more younger viewers.

Tomorrow's changes represent the first large-scale revamp of the BBC's news output since news bulletins moved into virtual reality studios four years ago.

The new studio for Breakfast News and Newsnight will also be used by Business Breakfast, Working Lunch, Breakfast with Frost and On the Record. BBC executives say the investment in new sets will pay for itself because of efficiency savings from the intensive use of the studio.

Peter Horrocks, editor of Newsnight, is hoping to capitalise on a post-election 25 to 30 per cent rise in the late-night programme's viewing figures, which have risen to 1.7 million on some nights.

He said Newsnight would remain the home of the big Jeremy Paxman political interview — such as his duel with former home secretary Michael Howard in which he asked the same question 14 times — but the political desk would be replaced by a round table, giving a less portentous and more relaxed environment for political interviews.

"With Labour's huge majority, we need to approach political issues in a different way. The old political tit-for-tat is redundant — the public mood is against the slam, bam, shouting style of politics."

The programme's second set will eschew the desk altogether, replacing it with a coffee table, for discussions on subjects including arts and sport. "We will be giving more space to a broader range of stories," Mr Horrocks said.

Andrew Thompson, editor of Breakfast News, said: "We are still the morning TV show that provides a quality news service. We are taking the editorial content and putting it in a more appropriate setting."

The lengthy semi-circular desk has been replaced by an oval one. Brighter colours will give warmth and accessibility.

Mr Thompson believed the audiences on other channels were "pretty soft" and the new look could lift BBC1's ratings. Breakfast News averages an audience of nearly 1.2 million, compared to about 1.5 million for GMTV.

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Bossi stages poll stunt to muster support

John Hooper in Rome

UMBERTO Bossi yesterday staged his latest stunt in support of a new status for the north of Italy — an independence referendum seemingly intended to provide him with a show of popular backing which he badly needs.

The tub-thumping leader of the Northern League has come under pressure from two directions recently. He has been upstaged by the Venetian separatists who seized the bell tower in St Mark's Square in a spectacular, if bizarre, escapade earlier this month. And he has been outflanked in Rome, where a parliamentary committee has tabled proposals that would give Italy's 20 regions a generous measure of autonomy.

Mr Bossi can no longer maintain that he has the only detailed alternative to rule from the centre, nor can he claim to speak on behalf of all in the north who resent it. Yesterday's vote turned the spotlight back on his plans for a separate "Padania" of uncertain status and expanse.

His party said it had set up more than 13,000 voting stations to allow all Padanians over the age of 16 a chance to vote. It was by far the biggest event to be staged by the Northern League since last autumn when Mr Bossi symbolically declared independence at a grandiose ceremony in Venice.

He had earlier created a Padanian parliament and government, and a National Guard of green-shirted activists.

By mid-morning the League claimed 3 million to 4 million out of 22 million people had voted. "If it goes on like this, we'll be able to declare independence tomorrow," said Mr Bossi's lieutenant, Roberto Maroni.

Voters in the 11 northernmost regions were asked whether they wanted the area to become an "independent and sovereign federal republic", even though Mr Bossi's most recent pronouncements suggest he would be content with less. Further south, in the Marche, Tuscany and Umbria, a much smaller exercise was mounted to ask residents if they wanted their regions to form part of the putative Padania.

The Northern League solemnly announced that Padanian residents abroad could vote on the Internet.

It also succeeded in roping in legislators from Spain, Croatia, Poland and Uruguay to act as "observers".

The results of this latest exercise in fantasy politics are due to be announced today. But, in practice, the Northern League will be free to declare whatever figure it chooses.

After the raid on St Mark's Square, fewer Italians are taking it all with the shrug and a smirk most accorded last year's UDI. There is growing evidence the raid has stirred an appetite for action among some who want to be rid of Rome.

L'Osservatore Romano, the semi-official voice of the Vatican, called yesterday's vote "alarming". And in Corriere della Sera, veteran commentator Enzo Biagi mounted a passionate attack on the interior minister, Giorgio Napolitano, for allowing the referendum to go ahead.

A group of anti-separatists protest in Venice as the secessionist Northern League set up 13,000 voting centres in towns around northern Italy yesterday to stage a referendum on a breakaway from Rome PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREA MEROLA

Klaus urged to go as three cabinet ministers quit

Havel attacks PM amid Czech crisis

Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE Czech president, Vaclav Havel, yesterday launched a blistering attack on the government of Vaclav Klaus, coming close to demanding the prime minister's resignation after three cabinet ministers quit at the weekend.

Mr Havel's intervention in the mounting crisis in Prague confronted Mr Klaus with his biggest challenge since he led the negotiations to break up Czechoslovakia in 1992.

Three key cabinet members — the finance, interior and trade ministers — resigned at the weekend, taking the blame for a worsening economic crisis as part of a government reshuffle, which represents Mr Klaus's survival strategy.

But Mr Havel, a popular figure, rubbed salt into Mr Klaus's wounds by dismissing the resignations as inadequate and suggesting the entire government's departure could be "the cleanest solution constitutionally" to the country's problems.

The opposition leader, Milos Zeman, who has overtaken Mr Klaus in recent opinion polls, called for fresh elections next year — two years early.

Mr Havel used his regular weekly radio address yesterday to scorn the cabinet reshuffle as "cosmetic personnel changes" which he doubted would restore faith in the government.

"They have been talking for seven years about reforms in several ministries, and in reality nothing much has happened," Mr Havel said in a highly unusual public attack on the government.

The president has the power to block or endorse the appointment of cabinet ministers, and Mr Havel appeared to be warning that he could complicate the prime minister's scheme for remaining in power. Mr Havel said he would not agree to "halfway solutions".

> 'They have talked about reforms for years, and nothing has happened'

Since becoming Czech prime minister in 1992, Mr Klaus has established himself as the most successful government leader in post-communist Europe, overseeing the shift to a free market while maintaining minimal unemployment, a balanced budget and low inflation. Exactly a year ago he became the first post-communist leader to win a second term.

His majority, however, was very slim, and Mr Zeman's revitalised Social Democrats were seen as the real victors. Since then, the shine has rubbed off Mr Klaus's "economic miracle" because of a string of bank collapses, widespread fraud and corruption, and a ballooning balance of payments crisis.

In the past 10 days, the central bank has spent more than £1 billion shoring up the Czech crown against a speculators' onslaught, and Mr Klaus may be forced into a humiliating devaluation.

Late last week, thousands of people queued at banks to convert their savings into hard currencies but were advised the banks had run out of dollars and German marks.

Support for Mr Klaus has slumped to 18 per cent, his worst showing ever. Mr Zeman, his fortunes rising, is calling for surcharges on the Western consumer imports that have flooded the market, to combat the balance of payments crisis — proposals denounced by Mr Klaus as a return to soclalism.

Mr Havel and Mr Klaus, the two key figures in Prague since the "velvet revolution" of 1989, have long been locked in bitter personal rivalry. Mr Havel has long harboured grudges for the belittling treatment he endured from the prime minister earlier in the decade.

Slovak voters reject Meciar 'fraud' over referendum

Ian Traynor in Bonn

SLOVAKIA'S democratic image and its prospects of joining Nato suffered severe blows at the weekend when a crucial twin referendum collapsed because of last-minute government manipulation of the ballot.

An overwhelming majority of Slovaks boycotted the vote in protest at a move by the populist prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, to delete a question from the ballot papers.

The independent referendum commission yesterday announced a 9.6 per cent turnout and declared the votes invalid. The low turnout meant the referendums, seen as a crucial test of Slovakia's commitment to democracy, were also invalid.

The latest manoeuvring by Mr Meciar, a controversial figure repeatedly criticised by Western governments, diplomats and human rights watchers, stunned the opposition and the media and outraged independent observers.

The twin referendum was to ask Slovaks if they wanted to join Nato and whether the head of state should be elected by national plebiscite rather than by parliament, as in the present system. The ballot paper had four questions — three on Nato and one on the presidency.

Mr Meciar opposed the presidential poll since it would jeopardise his chances of gaining presidential powers next year. Despite losing two appeals to the constitutional court, the Meciar government suddenly deleted the presidential question from ballot papers distributed last Thursday, for the referendums on Friday and Saturday.

As Western diplomats spoke of a tragedy for democracy, President Michal Kovac and other senior figures boycotted the vote. The referendum commission said it would start legal proceedings against the government.

The opposition Democratic Party charged Mr Meciar with ushering in "the twilight of democracy" in Slovakia.

The front-page headline in the newspaper Novy Cas read, "Referendum: Fraud, Chaos, Scandal".

'One in five may be victims of child abuse' in Belgium

Stephen Bates in Brussels

ONE in five children in Belgium may be victims of some sort of abuse, suggests a report published yesterday by a national advisory committee set up to examine the sexual exploitation of children.

The report outlines 25 proposals for the treatment of child victims and their abusers and suggests that the protection of minors should be written into the constitution. It also calls for treatment as well as punishment of offenders and sex education in schools from the age of 11.

Child abuse victims presented King Albert II of Belgium and the prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene with a stark picture of their plight at a conference in Brussels yesterday.

One teenage boy spoke of his hatred for teachers who had abused him for two years, and five mothers whose children have disappeared pleaded for help from the government.

The boy, his voice shaking with emotion, told an audience of several hundred: "I did not say anything because I was afraid. I lost confidence in everyone. There is no pain so terrible and no penalty strong enough to punish the crime of paedophilia. For once, ministers, you should hit hard."

The conference, called to highlight the exploitation and abuse of children, has come in the wake of a series of abduction and murder cases and the arrest of at least two serial paedophiles and their associates, which has shaken Belgium to the core.

In an atmosphere heavy with tension, the recorded voices of anonymous children asked why their parents had failed them and whether the police would ever find out what happened to them.

One small boy who spoke in person replied, when asked who he would like to be when he grew up: "The king, because then I could change everything about where I live." King Albert, sitting in the front row, joined in the nervous laughter.

Public emotion has been raw since police arrested Marc Dutroux, aged 39, a builder from Charleroi, last August. They rescued two teenage girls from a cell in his basement and found the bodies of four other girls buried in his garden.

In March the body of a nine-year-old girl who disappeared five years ago was found in a trunk in the cellar of Patrick Derochette, a petrol station owner from Brussels. Like Dutroux he was a convicted sex abuser.

Revelations of systematic incompetence in the police and judicial investigations have led the king to call for reforms and placed the government under heavy pressure to act. Reforms have yet to be made.

Mr Dehaene told the conference that "all means necessary" would be used to tackle child abuse and give greater consideration within the judicial system to victims.

Nato forced to consider wider extension

David Fairhall in Brussels

ON THE eve of a new security pact between Russia and Nato, fierce debate has reopened on which east European states should be invited to join the North Atlantic alliance.

Whereas it had been assumed that only Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic would receive the coveted invitations, Romania and Slovenia have emerged as serious candidates.

The signing in Paris tomorrow of an agreement setting up a permanent joint council with Russia has focused Nato's attention on the precise tactics of its enlargement process sooner than expected. While Moscow has abandoned hopes of preventing some former members of the Soviet bloc joining the Western alliance, it is still determined to limit the expansion and this new relationship with Nato may enable it to do so.

The centrepiece of the Paris agreement, to be called the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security, is a permanent consultative council through which Russia and Nato will be entitled to raise any "issues of common interest related to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area".

Nato's dilemma is that while it desperately wants to develop a working relationship with Moscow, it does not want to give the Russians any control — let alone a veto — over issues such as enlargement. Much of the debate on who should be invited to join the alliance at its Madrid summit in July, therefore, turns on demonstrating that the door will always be open to suitable new members, perhaps one day including the three Baltic republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — which were incorporated into the Soviet Union during the second world war.

The Nordic members of the alliance believe strongly that the best way to achieve this is to limit the first wave to the three most obvious candidates — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — thereby emphasising that a second wave, and maybe a third, is almost bound to follow.

But France, with support from Mediterranean allies, is pressing for a more "balanced" expansion that would include Romania. This would immediately engage Nato with an area of potential instability in the Balkans, it is argued. The addition of Slovenia — conveniently providing a land corridor for military movements between Italy and Hungary — could lead to a closer relationship with Croatia and Bosnia, where Nato peacekeeping forces may be involved for years to come.

At Nato's Brussels headquarters there is admiration for the way in which Bucharest has marshalled its diplomatic campaign, establishing democratic credentials through elections, hurrying to settle border disputes with its neighbours, and showing a willingness to increase military spending (in contrast to the Czech Republic, which has cut its defence budget).

This has made an impact on Germany, which favoured limiting enlargement to the three obvious candidates but is now "wobbling" on the issue, according to a senior Nato official.

The United States and Britain have yet to make their views public. But now officials of both governments emphasise their open mind on the issue, which may not be resolved until just before the July summit in Madrid.

"Inviting just three new members shows the door really is open, that we're not drawing lines," an American diplomat said. "But Romania is a tough case. There are valid reasons for more than three."

Key points of security pact

THE key points of the Russia-Nato agreement are:

- The establishment of a strategic relationship with Moscow to accompany Nato enlargement into eastern Europe.
- The creation of a Permanent Joint Council, for consultation and, where appropriate, joint action on "security issues of common concern".
- No council discussion of internal matters.
- Neither side has a veto.
- The council is to be chaired jointly by a "troika" of the Nato secretary general with Russian and alliance representatives.
- Inclusion on the council's agenda of UN peacekeeping operations, nuclear safety, arms control, military exchanges and combating terrorism.
- The declaration that Nato has "no intention, no plan and no reason" to deploy nuclear weapons on new members' territory.
- Both parties agree "to prevent any potentially threatening build-up of conventional forces" in central and eastern Europe. — DH.

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World news in brief

Jordan hands over suspect

Jordan secretly handed over to Israel a Palestinian man whose wife shot and wounded three people, including an Israeli soldier, last month on the Israel-Jordan border, Israel Radio said yesterday.

Iyad Abu Libda was apparently extradited two weeks ago and is being detained on suspicion of incitement, training his wife and supplying her with a handgun. — AP.

Mexican clash

Four people were killed and three wounded on Saturday when guerrillas from the Popular Revolutionary Army ambushed Mexican troops in a mountainous area of the southwestern state of Guerrero, the Mexican government said. — Reuter.

Polarised Poles vote on new constitution

EIGHT years after leading Eastern Europe's anti-communist revolutions, Poles yesterday voted on a democratic constitution designed to enshrine the gains of 1989, *writes Ian Traynor in Bonn.*

The referendum to endorse the draft agreed by both houses of parliament last month, however, has polarised the country. The powerful Catholic church has campaigned against an "atheist" constitution that fails to outlaw abortion and the heirs to the Solidarity tradition also oppose it.

The new constitution aims to resolve the confusion since 1989 over the division of powers between president, government and parliament, but is criticised as poorly conceived and impenetrably written. It strips the president of many of the powers which Lech Walesa, the former president, had.

Although voters are expected to endorse the draft, the right and many heroes of the revolution find it hard to accept that the new constitution has been written by a parliament and government dominated by former communists and under a president who is a former communist.

Riots in Borneo claim more than 100 lives

AT LEAST 135 people died in rioting in the Indonesian city of Banjarmasin on Friday, police said yesterday. All but four were burnt to death while looting a shopping centre, *writes John Aglionby in Jakarta.*

Rescuers at the site on Borneo island said they expected to find more bodies in the charred remains of the four-storey Mitra Plaza, as some areas were too hot to enter.

The fire began in a bank on the ground floor which had been looted. Unrest began in the early afternoon on what was the last day of campaigning for the general election.

After a five-day rest after the end of the campaign, Indonesians go to the polls on Thursday.

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Soldiers topple government in Sierra Leone

Claudia McElroy in Freetown

SOLDIERS in the West African state of Sierra Leone ousted the civilian government early yesterday and President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah flew into exile in Guinea.

Eye-witnesses said that early yesterday morning Sierra Leonean soldiers exchanged sustained fire with Nigerian troops guarding the presidential complex in the capital, Freetown.

The clashes between Nigerian troops and the soldiers continued at the state house until late yesterday, according to a resident living close by. Earlier, coup leaders had warned Nigerian troops not to intervene.

There was no word on casualties. Hospital sources said five civilians died elsewhere in the capital and several civilians and soldiers were wounded.

Nigerian and Guinean troops have been backing the army in Sierra Leone's rebel war. Nigerian troops guard the state house, the capital's international airport and other key sites.

The coup leaders announced a dusk-to-dawn curfew yesterday. Residents reported continuing gunfire and looting by uniformed men hours after a coup spokesman appealed for calm.

Soldiers broke into housing compounds belonging to United Nations staff and Lebanese businessmen, looting cars, fuel and household goods.

But a spokesman for the soldiers said on radio: "Everything is under control. As of now, there are no casualties, no dead."

A sergeant who identified himself as a coup leader said the army had seized parliament and the government offices at state house, as well as the radio and television stations.

He said a new government would be announced by the end of the day.

The soldiers called for the return to Sierra Leone of Foday Sankoh, leader of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), who has been kept in a hotel suite in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, for two months by the military authorities.

Mr Sankoh said the coup came as no surprise. "I was not informed by man of this coup but I had a vision from the Almighty a few days ago that something was about to happen in Sierra Leone," he said.

He denied he is being detained in Abuja and said his mission is to see Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, and seek his contribution to the peace process. He has so far not been received by any senior Nigerian government official, although he said he expected to meet the foreign minister, Tom Ikimi, later this week and hoped to return home soon.

Sierra Leone has seen several coups in recent years.

The soldiers involved in the coup — all enlisted men rather than officers — also want the return from exile of Captain Solomon Musa, a former deputy military leader linked to coup allegations in 1993, and of General Julius Maada Bio, who led a coup last year before handing over to Mr Kabbah after elections.

Witnesses said about 20 heavily armed soldiers broke into the Pademba Road central prison and freed more than 600 inmates. — Reuter.

Kabila rebels in 'port massacre'

Matthew Bigg in Mbandaka

LAURENT Kabila's rebels massacred more than 200 unarmed Rwandan Hutu refugees at a port on the Congo river earlier this month and 140 at a village to the south, witnesses said.

Priests, civil servants and residents said the Rwandan-backed Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo killed more than 200 refugees on a quayside at the National Transport Office port at Mbandaka town on May 13.

They were slaughtered the day Mr Kabila's fighters seized the western town. Dozens more were killed on the main street and on the road to the airport, said the witnesses.

The new justice minister, Mwenze Kongolo, said in Mbandaka on Thursday that he was sent to investigate reports of killings but none took place and rebel soldiers had nursed refugees back to health.

The witnesses said the refugees arrived from Wendji village, 12 miles to the south, where residents, refugees and Red Cross workers said rebel fighters had slaughtered about 140 people earlier on May 13. Some of the Hutu refugees were former Rwandan soldiers and interahamwe militiamen, they said.

"I didn't count the number of dead but I am certain that in the town and on the airport road more than 200 were killed. That's what I saw on my way to work that day," a priest said.

Asked how many were massacred on the quayside, a senior civil servant said: "Many more than 200."

Witnesses said refugees were forced to kneel or lie on the concrete quayside and were shot, bayoneted or beaten to death with rifle butts. Most bodies were dumped in the river.

Red Cross officials showed reporters mass graves at Wendji cemetery, where they said they buried 116 refugees on May 13, 17 on May 14 and seven, including a woman and child, in the following days.

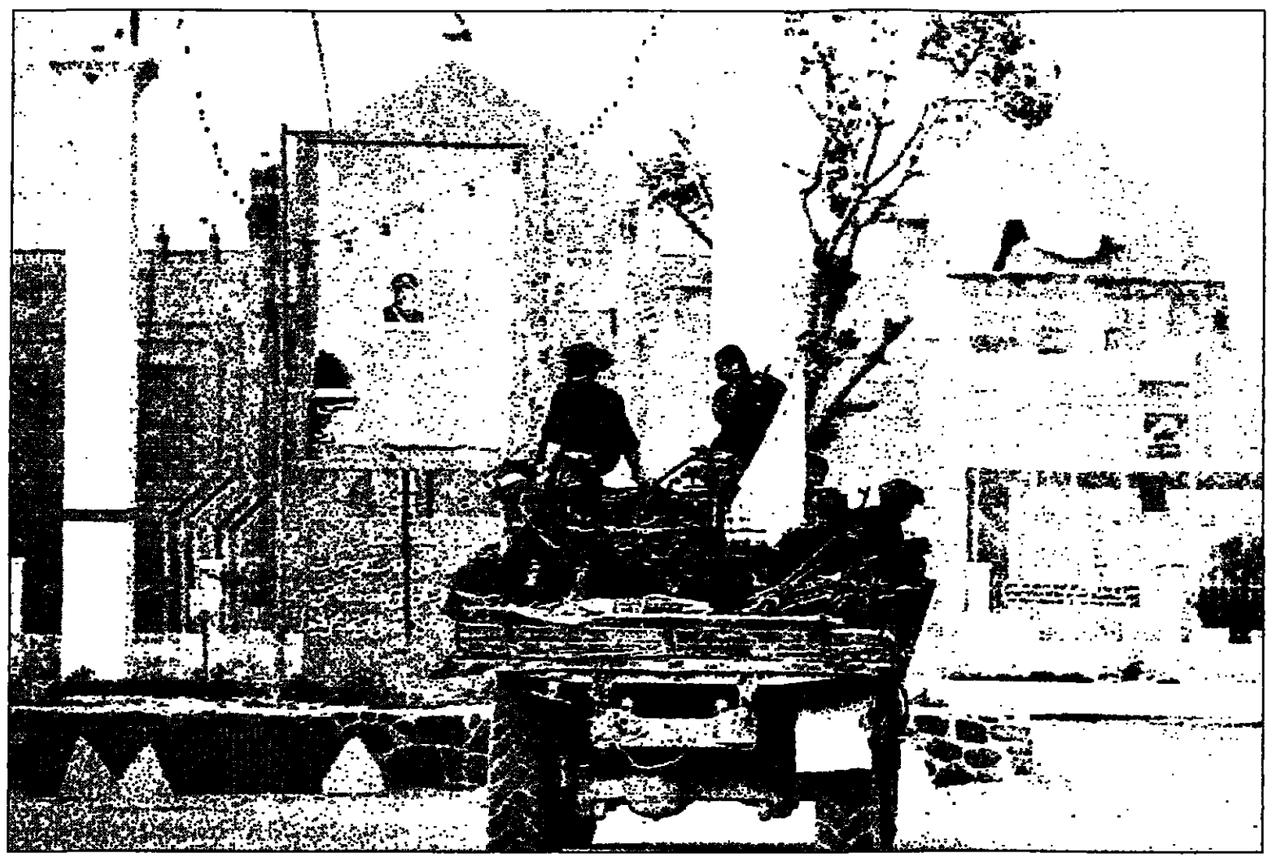
"Alliance troops came and opened fire on the refugees with machine guns. They told us: 'You are safe, it's the refugees that we want'," said an aid worker in Wendji.

A delegation of priests visited the new regional governor, Gabriel Mala Mutya, on Friday because they were outraged that he had denied refugees were killed in Mbandaka. — Reuter.

Taliban put neighbours on alert

As Pakistan welcomes the change of fortunes in Afghanistan, fears are growing across its other borders.

Suzanne Goldenberg reports from New Delhi



Victorious Taliban forces with an anti-aircraft gun drive past the historical shrine of Hazrat Ali in Mazar-i-Sharif yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: B. K. BANGASH

PAKISTAN yesterday became the first country to recognise the Taliban government in Kabul, welcoming a change of fortunes that has generally been viewed with trepidation by Afghanistan's neighbours.

"I am happy to announce that the government of Pakistan has now decided to accord formal recognition to the new government of the Islamic state of Afghanistan," Pakistan's foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, said in Islamabad. He called on other countries to follow Islamabad's lead, but Iran said it would wait for recognition from the United Nations.

Islamabad is widely believed to have given training and material support to the fighters who, in less than three years, have risen from obscurity in Pakistani *madressahs*, or religious seminaries, to masters of nearly all of Afghanistan. Apart from a few pockets of resistance, the country is under a unified command for the first time since Soviet occupying forces departed in 1989.

But the promise of internal stability offers little comfort to the Central Asian states to the north of Afghanistan, Russia, India or Iran, which were sympathetic to the regime of General Abdul Rashid Dostam. Russia is believed to have supplied ammunition and spare parts to Gen Dostam, and Iran to have helped prop up the currency, rescuing the regime from collapse last February.

Mazar-i-Sharif, which was transferred almost bloodlessly from Gen Dostam's command to mutineers allied with the Taliban at the weekend, is an hour's drive from Termez, the sole border crossing with Uzbekistan.

"Their big fear has been that there would be an exodus out of northern Afghanistan particularly for three frontline states — Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan," said Rupert Colville, a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Islamabad. "Mazar fell with very little fighting. That may reduce the numbers to people closely associated with the regime who can not switch sides." However, Russian border guards reported a rise in people crossing into Tajikistan, and troops have been put on alert in Kyrgyzstan.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, is likely to hear directly of concerns about a refugee exodus today when she begins a tour of the five Central Asian countries.

Moscow has 20,000 border forces guarding the former Soviet frontiers with Afghanistan, and yesterday the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeni Primakov, warned the Taliban against crossing the Amu Darya river, which marks the frontier. Any infringement "will provoke very tough and effective actions", he said.

> 'The fear is that you have five new states in search of an identity. Amid all their problems, one rallying identity is Islam'

In Tashkent, a foreign ministry statement said: "Uzbekistan's border troops are taking measures to reinforce the border to exclude any provocations."

It is this fear of "provocations" as much as a potential flood of refugees that concerns Central Asian leaders. All five states rule with a degree of repression; languishing economies have added to their unpopularity.

"The big fear is that you have five new states in search of an identity," said a UN official. "After having had a heavy Soviet hand on them for 70 years they are suddenly free and amid all their economic and other problems one rallying identity is Islam."

Although senior officials of the Taliban in Kabul have ruled out exporting their Islamist revolution beyond Afghanistan's borders, individual Taliban commanders have in the past called for the liberation of Bukhara and Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

One of the biggest potential irritants between a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and its neighbours has been removed with the flight of Gen Dostam to Turkey.

But even without active meddling, there is a fear that Islamist forces in Central Asia could find encouragement merely in the Taliban's example. Tajikistan, which has been riven by civil war since 1991, is especially vulnerable. The government reached a deal with Islamist opponents last December, which would see the disarming of rebel groups based in Afghanistan and the return of 15,000 refugees.

There is also concern about re-igniting a potential tinderbox in the Ferghana Valley, an ethnically mixed area that straddles Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which was the scene of pogroms in the late 1980s.

Iran's concerns with the Taliban are more muddled. Tehran would welcome further repatriation of 1.4 million Afghan refugees. However, it also stands to lose economically and in regional influence as Afghanistan unites around the Taliban.

Egypt-Israel summit to go ahead as planned

Shyam Bhatia in Jersualem

ISRAEL said yesterday a summit between the prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu and the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, would go ahead as planned.

"The summit will take place on Tuesday," the cabinet secretary, Danny Naveh, told Israel Television after talks in Jerusalem with an Egyptian envoy sent to prepare the ground for the summit at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Mr Mubarak's special envoy, Osma El Baz, had met Mr Netanyahu amid doubts on whether the summit would go ahead.

"We have not talked about conditions, we are talking about how to solve the present crisis," Mr Mubarak said after meeting King Hussein of Jordan on Saturday.

Earlier, the Egyptian foreign minister, Amre Moussa, outlined the Egyptian diplomatic initiative that calls for a temporary freeze on building Jewish settlements. "It is hard to expect negotiations to go on in a constructive atmosphere while the Israeli bulldozers sweep the ground," Mr Moussa said in Cairo.

The Middle East peace process has been stalled for nearly three months and until last night there were no signs of a breakthrough. The crisis started in March when the Israeli government announced plans to build a Jewish settlement at Har Homa, in Arab east Jerusalem.

On the same day, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a cafe in Tel Aviv, prompting the Israeli authorities to suspend all contacts with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Since then, American and Arab efforts have failed to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table. Dennis Ross, the United States Middle East envoy, left the region last week after Palestinians accused him of being biased towards Israel.

Palestinian officials condemned him as "a Zionist" who cares only about Israel's interests. Madeleine Albright, the secretary of state, reacted angrily to his boycott, saying it was tantamount to insulting President Clinton.

US-Palestinian relations suffered another setback last week when Washington condemned the killing of two Arabs suspected of selling land to Jews.

An opinion poll published yesterday found that 91 per cent of Palestinians believe the US is biased in favour of Israel. The poll, conducted by the Jerusalem Media Communications Centre, shows a rise in the number of Palestinians who have lost confidence in the peace process.

"The peace process is finished," former Arafat adviser Bassam Abu Sherif wrote in the Palestinian Al Quds newspaper. "The Israeli prime minister, who originally opposed the Oslo Accords, is against the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Mr Netanyahu will do everything to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

● More than $300 million (£187.5 million) — almost 40 per cent of the Palestinian Authority's annual budget — has been wasted or misused, according to a report by the authority's auditing office. The report found that some ministers channelled funds from foreign donors into personal accounts.

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Kicking the Thatcher habit

The place to view her is from afar

TONY BLAIR'S political flirtation with Margaret Thatcher is one of his most deeply unappealing and dangerous characteristics. He does it for a variety of reasons, some of which are just possibly excusable in the short term but none of which should in the end be at all acceptable for the clear-sighted progressive politician which he rightly claims to be. Yesterday's "Blair in secret talks with Thatcher" headlines were the latest case in point. Okay, so they were an easy sell to the still Thatcher-besotted right-wing Sunday papers, and the idea that Mr Blair intends to base his European policy on anything that Mrs Thatcher can teach him can be dismissed as simply laughable. But it sends a teasing signal to middle England that Mr Blair is not really a Labour politician or a pro-European either. It disturbs the Conservatives, by rubbing their noses in the fact that a Labour prime minister seems to be hobnobbing with the woman who is still the Tories' most potent political icon. And it annoys the left, which is something Mr Blair and his advisers love to do and which makes them feel even more pleased with themselves than they are already — if that is possible.

Mrs Thatcher was a very important political leader, and her experience of office is undoubtedly of interest to a new and inexperienced regime. It is understandable that Mr Blair might want to listen to the former prime minister talk and might even want to pick her brains, though he should do so with a very long spoon. But interest in a person's experience of office is not enough, since on that basis, Mr Blair could have some useful chats with ex-President Mobutu too. What matters is what these leaders did and what they still stand for, and Mrs Thatcher's importance is matched only by the destructive effect of her period in office and the irrelevance of her prescriptions for the future. If there is one really serious criticism to be made of Mr Blair it is that he does not seem to understand what was so wrong about Thatcherism. By according Mrs Thatcher such personal status and by continuing to be so respectful towards her legacy, he plays into the hands of a right-wing Britain which is still in thrall both to Thatcher and Thatcherism. It may win him a little more kudos at the tables of the right-wing press barons, and it may have been tactically justifiable in the search for votes in Labour's opposition days, but to millions of people it will now be seen as simply treacherous. It is an act which injects a drop of poisonous despair into the bloodstream of the voters who rely on Mr Blair and on whom ultimately he must also rely. Even more important, he makes it more difficult to create something new and strong to put in Thatcherism's place.

For Mr Blair's single most important political asset is that he is Not-Thatcher. He has been elected to create a Not-Thatcher Britain. His place in British history depends upon supplanting Thatcher Britain and replacing it with a Britain which is progressive and lasting, and in which people are helped to understand why Thatcherism was so wrong in principle and so damaging in practice. It is no answer to say that many millions of people still retain immense admiration for her. Those millions, if they really exist, have got it wrong. Mr Blair ought to be weaning them off their delusions, not pandering to them. We have great faith in Mr Blair but he should be more aware of what he is messing with. Readers should not fall for the facile insult that the Prime Minister is a closet Thatcherite himself, but Mr Blair should kick a habit that is unworthy of him. To paraphrase the next famous visitor to Number 10, it may be okay to spend some time with Margaret Thatcher, but you have to be careful that you don't inhale.

Worse than the US

Britain is top of the table: for crime

ANYONE still tempted to believe that Thatcherism solved more problems than it created — see above — might usefully study the international crime survey which we report today. One of the most deeply held beliefs among modern New Right thinkers and politicians of the Thatcher school is that economic liberalism and social conservatism must go hand in hand. Throughout the Thatcher years — and after — British right-wing politicians believed that rising crime was a byproduct of socialist values and organisation and that it could principally be turned around by the application of more restrictive laws, tougher policing and stricter penal policies.

Well, here we are, 18 years later — and has it worked? Michael Howard would say that it has, and would cite the successive recent falls in the reported crime figures as proof that the tide has finally begun to turn back. Today's International Crime Victimisation Survey seems to show that it has not. Mr Howard's claims may not be actually false, but they stand revealed as puny and largely irrelevant. Indeed England and Wales now have a worse crime record than almost all the other advanced industrial nations in the survey, including the US itself. Citizens of England and Wales are more likely than others to be victims of crime, to be burgled and to have their motor cars stolen. But what will shock them to the core is the finding that they also face the same statistical likelihood of robbery, assault and sexual attack as the supposedly much more violent Americans. Not surprisingly, the survey says that Britain is one of the countries in the world which is now most pressured by crime.

Victim-based crime surveys always need to be read with care and can sometimes be used to create a more frightening picture than actually exists. Victim surveys always show that there is more crime than report-based surveys, but they also put crime and the danger of crime into their true perspective. Even on this survey, it is by no means clear that social cohesion in Britain is actually falling apart. People may be unusually fearful to walk the streets at night, but the chances of them becoming victims of crime if they do so are actually quite modest. A society in which 97 per cent of the population go through the year without being attacked is not a violent society, even though it is shocking that the remaining 3 per cent are not so fortunate. And the British retain a healthy (and on the whole justified) satisfaction in the work of the police, which is an important asset in mobilising public support for anti-crime strategies, or would be if the strategies followed here in recent years had seriously addressed our real rather than our imagined needs.

Letters to the Editor

Why breast milk never sours

LORAINE Bates's definition of "normality" does not include breast-feeding, it seems (Letters, May 23). How sad. What could be more normal than to use one's breasts for that for which they were designed, and for as long as both mother and child want to continue?

You may not enjoy breast-feeding, you may find it invasive, you may stop as soon as you feel you can, but why do you need to criticise those who do differently?

The idea that one could "return to normality" after having a child suggests that there is something *abnormal* about the child's presence in its parents' lives. And there's the nub of the matter. Western society seems to feel that children are not normal, and can't wait for them to grow up, to become independent.

But anyone who thinks they can ever return to the normality that prevailed before they had kids is deluding themselves. Most people build a new normality that includes the child(ren), and tries to take account of everyone's needs.

If those needs happen to include extended breast-feeding, and it thus becomes part of a family's own particular version of normality, then why should anyone else care?
Naomi Standen.
St John's College,
Oxford University,
Oxford OX1 3JP.

LORAINE Bates suggests that prolonged breast-feeding might be the result of guilt-ridden career women over-compensating for the time taken away from their children. May I say, as one who has been breast-feeding for all but three of the past 20 years, that I was at home with my children throughout?

My first was fed for a year, but I subsequently breast-fed throughout three pregnancies and my other four children were fed until they were three, four and five. I am now 51 and feeding my five-year-old each morning. I am fit and healthy with healthy, independent children — so what's the problem?

When breast-feeding is no longer a source of comfort as well as nutrition, the child will give it up. In the meantime substitutes like bottles and dummies are just that and I, for one, wanted to give my children the real thing.
Nancy Johnson.
121 Rustings Road,
Endcliffe Park,
Sheffield.

MAY I suggest that another explanation for career women prolonging breast-feeding is that they are more likely to have the confidence to do what feels natural? They might also be less concerned by society's lack of acceptance of breast-feeding, and less likely to consider factors such as the dangers of developing "nipples like door-stops" and the size of their bra cup, than the likes of Ms Bates.
Sarah Morris.
120A Marlborough Road,
London N22 4NN.

IF anyone should feel guilt it is Loraine Bates for her damaging comments about mothers who elect to continue breast-feeding their children for longer than her measly "nine to 10 months".

My children are confident, secure, sociable, intelligent and articulate and I, contrary to her prejudices, retain gorgeous nipples.
Elizabeth Linklater.
Clifton,
York YO3 6ZH.

MY OWN children varied between breast-feeding until two weeks after his first birthday and then bottles of cow's milk; to weaning herself at nine months and never needing a bottle at all. Amongst friends I have encountered some unable to breast-feed at all to those breast-feeding children up to three and a half years old. The number of options is as great as the number of mother-child relationships.

Surely, far more important than the question of whether to breast-feed or not, or for how long, is that mother and child are happy and comfortable in their relationship to one another.

The only other person with any right to be consulted about this decision is the child's father.
Hazel Dawe.
60 St Stephens Road,
Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7HU.

Zaire might owe millions to the banks, but Congo does not

WE have all heard of the Third World debt crisis, of hopelessly poor nations unable to pay their debts, and of the human suffering that goes with it. The lenders often assert a principle of international law: that state obligations belong to a land and its people, not a regime.

This argument was also used in the late 1800s, when the Spanish empire lost Cuba to the Americans. America claimed it was not responsible for the so-called "Cuban debt" as it was imposed upon the people of Cuba without their consent and by force of arms and was one of the principal wrongs against which the struggles for Cuban independence were undertaken. Much of the borrowing was designed to crush attempts by the Cuban population to revolt against Spanish domination, and so was expended in a manner contrary to Cuba's interest. As such the Americans argued, these debts could not be considered Cuban debts, nor could they be binding on a successor state.

It is frightening to think that, should my partner and I decide to give our child (due in a few days) the Zairian nationality that he or she would be entitled to then, hanging over the child's head would be a debt of about £100,000 which he or she owes the IMF and its affiliates.

Worst of all is that, despite knowing where the money was going — ie Swiss bank accounts — the world kept pouring money into Zaire. I strongly believe that if a despotic power incurs a debt not for the needs of or in the interest of the state, but to strengthen its despotic regime, to repress the population that fights against it, this debt is not an obligation on the nation. It is a personal debt of the power that has incurred it. Consequently it falls with the fall of this power.
Theodore Mfuni-Bukasa.
33 Huddlestone Road,
London NW2 5DL.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters.

Blend of empire

WITH reference to your article on people of mixed race (A rich mix G2, May 22), I would like to draw attention to a small, unobtrusive bust in the British Museum foyer, inscribed to one Septimius Severus, Emperor of Rome 193-211AD.

As Rome's only "African Emperor" (he was from Libya) Severus spent more time in Britain than in any of his other provinces. For several years he endeavoured to subdue the Scottish tribes, including the cannibalistic Attacotti of Galloway, before dying in York. During his time here, there were up to 50,000 men at the border, the majority drafted from North Africa, Assyria and Spain. As retired legionnaires were often encouraged to settle permanently round the various perimeters of the empire, it is reasonable to suppose that some Britons may have been, then as now, "fairly beige". The only difference being that, in those days, the roles were reversed.
Galina Chester.
138 Highbury Hill,
London N5 1AT.

Lovely tubbies

I HAVE watched Teletubbies many times with my 13-month-old baby, Robert, and I simply cannot agree with your comments (A spot of tubby trouble, May 21). I tried for weeks to teach him to wave bye-bye to visitors and he simply ignored me. However, the repetitive nature of Teletubbies has encouraged him to respond to this basic social signal. He has also started to point at things in a much more definite and inquisitive manner and has learned several animal noises, another skill in which I had failed to interest him. Robert's favourite part is the baby sun which smiles and laughs. He responds to this in much the same way he responds to his friends when they come to play.

One thing I have learnt since I became a mother is that babies are cleverer than you think. They formulate games and converse with each other in ways which we do not understand because we do not speak that language any more. Teletubbies is obviously very good at it because it seems to make perfect sense to Robert.

I also laugh at all this misplaced political correctness about television which is at the root of most of the complaints about Teletubbies. It really is naïve to think that we can shelter our children from technological advances, such as television and computers. Their world is made up of technology and that is not going to change.
Lorraine A Chapman.
78 Mildenhall Road,
London E5 0RU.

MY four children grew up to the sound of globbity glob from Bill and Ben the Flower Pot Men, and the Clangers, who held a conversation by whistling. They all spoke well at an early age, all gained A-levels and are in good careers — what's the panic? My three-year-old daughter, who also speaks well, loves the dear chubby Tellytubbies. She understands what they say and as for "do it again", isn't that what young children like doing?

I think this business is a storm in a tea cup stirred up by a group of over-sophisticated mums. There is no nastiness in the programme — the little Tubbies are always hugging and helping each other. Their children could and probably do see more harmful programmes.
Marjorie Dolan.
9 Hendy Street,
Cardiff CF2 5EV.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: They called it Butter Crags Tarn last century — the long, narrow pool of water on a grassy shelf a thousand feet above the dale, just behind the topmost rocks where the runners in the annual Grasmere Guides Race round the flag before their headlong, helter-skelter descent back to the sports field. But after a Mr Alcock who lived at Hollins at the foot of the fell had it dammed at the south end, enlarged and stocked with trout, it has been known as Alcock Tarn — but not Allcock Tarn as on the Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 map and some road signs. Now, this tarn — or any one of several nearby outcrops — is a quite superb viewpoint for central Lakeland, the dales and the surrounding heights. Indeed, for an inaugural outing at the start of a holiday or on a first visit to Lakeland, Alcock Tarn should not be missed: it is a far more rewarding short trip than the stony trail to Easedale Tarn or many of the other highly praised walks in the area. There are two main routes — one from the Swan Hotel, up Greenhead Gill, just above the place where Michael, the shepherd in Wordsworth's moving poem, had his home and sheepfold, and the other round the back of Dove Cottage, Wordsworth's home, past a duckpond and up the open fell. This sequence for the round trip is perhaps the better since you have the steepest section for the ascent. But, the other day, a day in a thousand, of broken sunshine and needle-sharp distant views, we went up past the duckpond, for a change, and came down by the gill. It was magical all the way, the enchantment increasing and the scene widening as we walked up the fellside. In a sense we were also climbing Helm Crag, Silver How and Loughrigg, just across the floor of the dale, gradually drawing level with these summits,and savouring all the other delights of familiar corners and slopes, as we slowly gained height. And all achieved with so little effort.

A HARRY GRIFFIN

The answer is that Question Time is better

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

WHEN I was young and foolish — I think the year was 1983 — I suggested in this column that writing a daily parliamentary sketch was not a job for grown-up journalists. I doubt if I would have aroused so much animosity by defending the slaughter of the first born. Old friends cut me dead in the corridors of Westminster. Men and women whose byline I barely knew rebuked me in the Members' lobby of the House of Commons. The father-in-law of one sketch writer — himself a distinguished journalist — sent me copies of his son-in-law's work. Marked passages were decorated with comments about my inability to write with equal wit, charm, perception, knowledge and elegance. I had forgotten that most political commentators had, in youth, spent early afternoons satirising what they wrongly described as the Mother of Parliament. I had also ignored the golden rule that, whilst it is essential for journalists to be rude about politicians, it is forbidden for politicians to be critical of journalists.

Having grown old, if not wise, I have no intention of repeating the follies of youth. But last Thursday morning I could not help recalling that once upon a time I regarded some forms of journalism as more superficial than others. I was reminded of my early indiscretion by the reaction of some sketch writers to the way in which Prime Minister's Question Time had been reorganised — a half-hour opportunity to make serious inquiries rather than two 15-minute temptations to attempt something wildly witty or daringly aggressive. Boring, they wrote. Bland. Insipid. Dull. The idea that politics is supposed to be thought not theatre seemed never to have entered their heads. I feel profoundly grateful for the change that the Government has brought about. Now I can switch on my television on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons without feeling embarrassment, guilt and shame.

The embarrassment needs no explanation. My emotion must have been shared by every intellectually fastidious viewer who believed in respect for democracy. The shame and guilt were more personal. In my time, I have been a persistent offender — a would-be Prime Minister's Question Time recidivist who longed for the message which told me that I must deputise that afternoon for Neil Kinnock. When the call came, I abandoned whatever I was doing and concentrated all my time and energy on inventing a conundrum which would trick Margaret Thatcher into saying something that she did not mean.

My technique was based on the romantic view of spin bowling. First, I would throw up a slow full toss. "Does the right honourable lady persist in the belief that parents should have the final word in determining their children's education?" Margaret Thatcher would then hit me over the metaphorical pavilion for six. "Only a Socialist would be stupid enough to suggest that a parent's views are not paramount. As long as I remain Prime Minister, their views will prevail." It was time for my googly. "Why then is the Government abolishing the Inner London Education Authority when 96 per cent of the capital's parents want to keep it?" Sometimes, the trick worked. But on other occasions Mrs Thatcher hit the first ball so high and hard into the crowd of cheering Tory backbenchers that nobody noticed the second delivery coming out of the back of my hand.

Once I asked her — with what I hoped was deceptive naivête — why she would not support general trade sanctions against the South African regime. She replied that her reasons were the same as mine and read from a written answer which I had given — that is to say initialled on the Minister's instructions — when I was a parliamentary secretary more than 20 years earlier. I did not, as they say, "rise in my place again". My mind was occupied by a single question. Since I had no idea that I had ever committed myself on the subject, how did she find out about it? Perhaps the Prime Minister, or one of her acolytes, invented the whole story. I never had the heart to search through Hansard to find out. Anyway, it was not important. I enjoyed the defeats almost as much as the victories. Prime Minister's Question Time provided the joy of battle.

That is great for the young of heart and mind — the sort of people who look forward to watching Gladiators on Saturday night television. But Parliament should be about something more serious. Certainly, there ought to be conflict. Democracy depends on rival policies, based on conflicting ideologies, being pitted against each other. But there is a more adult way of achieving that aim than trading schoolyard insults. So we ought to thank Tony Blair for his procedural initiative and be almost equally grateful to John Major for making a change inevitable. During the dying days of the Tory government, Prime Minister's Question Time proceeded according to a formula even more predictable than my disguised off breaks. The Leader of the Opposition would ask something like, "How many cattle have been slaughtered in the last 10 days and is the policy of mass bovicide likely to lead to a lifting of the European beef ban?" The Prime Minister would then reply, "Perhaps the right honourable gentleman would care to tell the House how many of his backbenchers are sponsored by the Transport and General Workers' Union and why, on the 25th of May, 1981, he was seen in the company of a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament?" It was clear after that that either Alice would have to go back through the looking glass or the system would have to be changed.

The change is clearly to the benefit of a Prime Minister who has the confidence and command to stand at the Dispatch Box and, without a note in sight, answer whatever questions are put to him. And the going will one day get far more rough than it was last Wednesday when the shell-shocked Tories barely dared put their heads above the parapet of their disintegrating dug-out. But the change is clearly right for the reputation of parliamentary democracy. All that prevents me from describing the improvements in more detail is the fear of behaving like a sketchwriter. And I am far too old for that.

هكذا من الأصل

Ekerö Diary

Alek Duval Smith

I WAS in Washington when the call came through: my mother, who lives in Sweden and has Parkinson's Disease, had taken a turn for the worse.

As I phoned travel agencies, the TV tortured me with ads for health insurance; in America, there should be a support group for worried callers hearing such ads' guilt-trip rubbish. In Britain, New Labour was taking its first steps. I was pondering just how often key words like health, welfare and equality might crop up in the next five years.

I feel strongly about these things because I lived in Sweden of the 1970s and 1980s, the daughter of a single mother in a society where the safety net was a well-sprung mattress. I knew people who paid a lot of tax, but I had never seen a beggar until 1983 when I moved to London. Since then, the failing Swedish economy and the growth of unemployment has demanded drastic changes, sharp welfare savings and tax cuts. It has not been Thatcherism but for *Folkhemmet* (the People's Home), it has been traumatic.

So when I left for Ekerö, the Stockholm suburb where my mother lives, I did not know what care provisions I would find, nor how I would pay for necessary help. Within two hours of arriving, I was with my mother's GP, trying to work out the options for a confused patient who must take 11 different drugs in varying doses every four hours. She lives in an old house with steep stairs and no neighbours.

Parkinson's Disease progresses unpredictably in each patient. I thought, at best, that I would have to battle with authorities determined to move my mother somewhere more sensible. At worst, I foresaw having to go flat-hunting to avoid her being admitted to hospital. As I talked to the GP and watched the social services spring into action, unencumbered by bureaucracy, I realised that it was I who had changed much more than Sweden. Thatcherism and American TV commercials had brainwashed me into accepting the view that the welfare state cannot be more than a threadbare safety net: if you want more, reach for your cheque book.

Sweden realised years ago that the most cost-effective care takes place in the home. But Sweden laid up the facilities, even for my mother who is not housebound and has her mental faculties.

Now, for a nominal charge, she has a telephone alarm system, taxi service, physiotherapy sessions and daily visits from the district nurse. A lift may be installed on her stairs and new bannisters. Seven days a week, morning and evening, home helps visit.

So tailored is the care that, every day at 7.45am, my mother receives a wake-up call, upon which she takes a pill to prevent cramp; then the home help telephones again, my mother gets up, and takes the first major dose of medication.

Well-schooled in the British view that anything successfully provided by the state is a miracle, I was terribly grateful. "This is your right, your mother's right. There is nothing to be grateful for," came the answer time and again. Yes, it costs money, not a lot less than the tax-slashers would have you believe. Sweden spends 6 per cent of GDP on health and 7 per cent on social security and welfare. It spends 4 per cent on defence.

Income tax now stands at top rate of 30 per cent, though in areas like Stockholm up to a further 30 per cent goes towards local authorities and social charges. As part of moves to dismantle cradle-style health care, services are contracted out to the private sector.

The system remains a vote winner. Any Swede is more proud of the country's natural environment, then its egalitarian society and welfare state. No one has forgotten that, 100 years ago, Stockholm was a slum with 50 per cent infant mortality. Now Sweden's government is 50 per cent women in the cabinet.

One of the most heartening aspects is that the system allows for personal attention. A home help telephoned me before I left: "We are due to come and clean tomorrow but since it is your last day, we wondered whether it would be more convenient for us to come on Thursday," she said.

Labour can't weasel out of a fox policy

Commentary

Peter Preston

TALLY hum. Forget leaking school roofs, patients in pain on trolleys: forget even the Amsterdam summit. Why trifle with trivia when there's a debate on fox-hunting galloping over the horizon — and maybe a total ban? It will be fast: it will be furious: it could dump the Conservative-voting editor of the Labour-voting Evening Standard in a ditch.

This, allegedly, is Town versus Country. But here's a very funny thing. I was born in Barrow-on-Soar, just a mile away from Quorn Hunt headquarters. I lived there, and in Quorn itself, for 18 years. Sometimes you'd see the red coats tooting away across the fields. You could always find them, after the event, steaming round the local pub. Yet only once, in all that time, did I ever glimpse more than a *flash of a fox*.

Now I live in London, four miles from Big Ben. There are six foxes — two adults, four cubs — playing in plain view on the grass outside my window. One is digging a large hole in the lawn, another scuffing away beneath the laurel bush. They come and *look back through the window*. They don't run when you approach. They potter away, probably to undermine my neighbour's shed more comprehensively. The rancid pong of their pee floats on a southern breeze.

Once upon a Good Life time we tried to keep chickens. The first time the foxes broke into the pen, my wife, wearing a shortie nightdress and waving a cricket bat through the black of night, saved six of the eight. But at the second coming the carnage was complete: a cock bleeding to death and thrashing feebly, six slaughtered hens and one, in the recesses of the hutch, frozen with fear.

So much for Homestead SE5. The battlefield (around one-and-a-half tennis court's worth) is abandoned to the predators now, a true skulk of foxes. They gambol in the garden, roll in the flower beds, lie prone on bushes when the sun shines. Their scat — filled with intestinal parasites — *lurks in the long grass* under the apple tree.

Free question, free debate. How are we supposed to feel? Fascinated, as though by some BBC2 living documentary? The last academic treatise on urban foxes I read (by a team from Minneapolis) told of many weeks trawling *the city and finding only two* dens with never a fox sighted. Perhaps the Prof would like to rent my house for the summer. Perhaps we're specially blessed. They are absorbing. Dinner parties get a second wind (after Michael Howard) when the cabaret comes out to play.

Did you know that a stomach survey of 571 London foxes found an 18.4 per cent incidence of bones from meat and poultry (probably my poultry); 3.1 per cent of bread; 1.6 per cent of potato peelings; 0.2 of cooked peas and nuts; and 0.1 per cent of Chinese takeaway? That's one party piece, after the sun-dried tomatoes. Outside London, the mice, voles, rats and squirrels get a bigger share of the masticatory action.

New Labour, one would assume, must have a principled and consistent policy on all this, as on everything else. If the fox is a protected species when pursued by large Tories on horseback, it must be equally precious laying waste the south London lawns of non-Conservative voters. Jack Straw would feed the vixen Egg Fu Yong. Tony Banks would wrap her in a Chelsea flag.

But here is some discommoding news. Labour councils have a bafflingly contrary policy. They've opted out of the problem, health hazards, intestinal parasites and all. They merely refer you — and your chequebook — to private operators, like the Fox Project. And the Project doles out advice which would make the shade of Nicholas Ridley skip in glee.

There is, apparently, no point in shooting, trapping or hounding your foxes. If they're there, it's because the area is prime. Killing is futile, because other foxes will move *on to the patch immediately*. (Indeed, one learned study reports that the more you try to control the fox population,

> Dinner parties get a second wind (after Michael Howard) when the foxy cabaret comes out to play

the younger the foxes that remain start having cubs — so all the effort yields an unchanged population, just hungrier for chicken Kiev and fitter for desecrating rose beds).

You are left, therefore, with Ridley's famous recourse: NIMBY, as in Not In My Back Yard. A simple, if fiddly, ploy which seems to involve soaking rags in a chemical repellent and stringing them around your garden so that the fox's sense of smell goes haywire. That sense of smell "is of major importance for locating food, scenting danger and defending territory, and, if confused persistently, the fox will prefer to avoid the affected area".

Tender hearts may be cheered to know that the chemical route "harms neither adult fox nor cub". Tougher politicians, however, will rapidly see the snag. A tennis court full of repellent doesn't solve the crisis. It merely moves it next door. Perhaps the foxes have returned to my garden because of somebody else's stinking rags. Perhaps stinkier rags will shift them back again. We're not talking solutions here. We're talking pass the putrescent parcel. Ethical *complexities skulk beneath* the potting shed. Let's find an impecunious OAP widow with an arthritic hip and a very large garden who can't do anything to save herself.

Yet these are dilemmas you never see discussed in print or raised in Parliament. The foxes of Labour land wander on unmentioned, rooting for bacon rinds and tandoori prawns. The foxes of Tory land are storm centre, an issue to rouse the sleeping Lords. Do we start with rich, horsey people enjoying themselves too much? Or do we start with foxes themselves?

Good beasts, bad beasts? Wonderful beasts, dirty beasts? There is no answer, because there has been no question. Real politicians, you see, don't even acknowledge a problem they know they can't solve. The back yard option rules OK. That's what I call a real game of chicken: waiting for something to turn up, if only a handy epidemic of sarcoptic mange.

Charles weds Spice Girl: that should do it

Ros Coward

PRINCE Charles's plans to win public approval will get a boost this summer. He's persuaded his old chum, Sir David Frost, to plug the 21st anniversary of the Prince's Trust in a BBC interview.

He will also take significant steps towards establishing Camilla as mistress of Highgrove when he hosts her 50th birthday there in July. Some papers are calling it her coming-out party. He is reworking his image as a serious man who, with the woman he loves at his side, could become a sort of royal Blair, committed to modernity and moderation.

But before we wish him well as the sun sinks over the organic vegetable patch, it's worth asking whether this relationship isn't actually a badly missed opportunity. Charles has already dramatically messed up one relationship, exposing the nation to a saga of emotional torment. Under intense public scrutiny, it's hard to see why his own emotional agenda (shall we call it love?) has the free rein again.

We don't pay the royals to have emotions. We pay them to perform a constitutional role. Charles caused a crisis by insisting on the importance of his emotions, while refusing to give up his public role and income. Should we not now ask him to prioritise his constitutional role in future personal relations, foregrounding diplomacy rather than love?

Fashionable opinion represents Charles's marriage to Diana as a diplomatic match, but the opposite was true. Charles had to get married, and the only demands were that his bride should be a virgin and an aristocrat. This was not diplomacy but patriarchy. He should have learned fromm his mistakes. Yet here he is preparing to plough his own backyard again. Camilla may strike a blow for mature women, but she's an older version of the same thing, just better adjusted to the pursuits and expectations of her class. Jilly Cooper is a close friend: that should give pause for thought. This is still the silly, idle aristocracy.

The public has every right to make Charles give value for money. Royal marriages in the past have been used to secure alliances, or to heal scars within divided nations. What better time for Charles to revert to tradition? Tony Blair's rhetoric of one-nation politics constantly reminds us there has been a period of devastation akin to war. Surely Charles has a part to play in healing those wounds? If Blair can get in bed with Lord Rothermere and the Sun's editor, why can't Charles embrace someone in the interests of modernisation and national harmony?

He could make an obvious *contribution to the demise of* Euroscepticism. Instead of sighing over the European monarchy's superior approach, he could marry one. A Scandinavian would enhance his democratic and green credentials no end. But a link with the Spanish royal family might ultimately prove more useful — a buffer to Franco-German domination.

To cement national unity, he could usefully look to the ethnic minorities — no hardship, given his predilection for inner cities and minority faiths. There is no shortage of royal Arabs, so perhaps he could consummate his flirtation with Islam. This would be a gesture of goodwill towards a vilified minority, although for this reason, it might be divisive rather than reconciliatory.

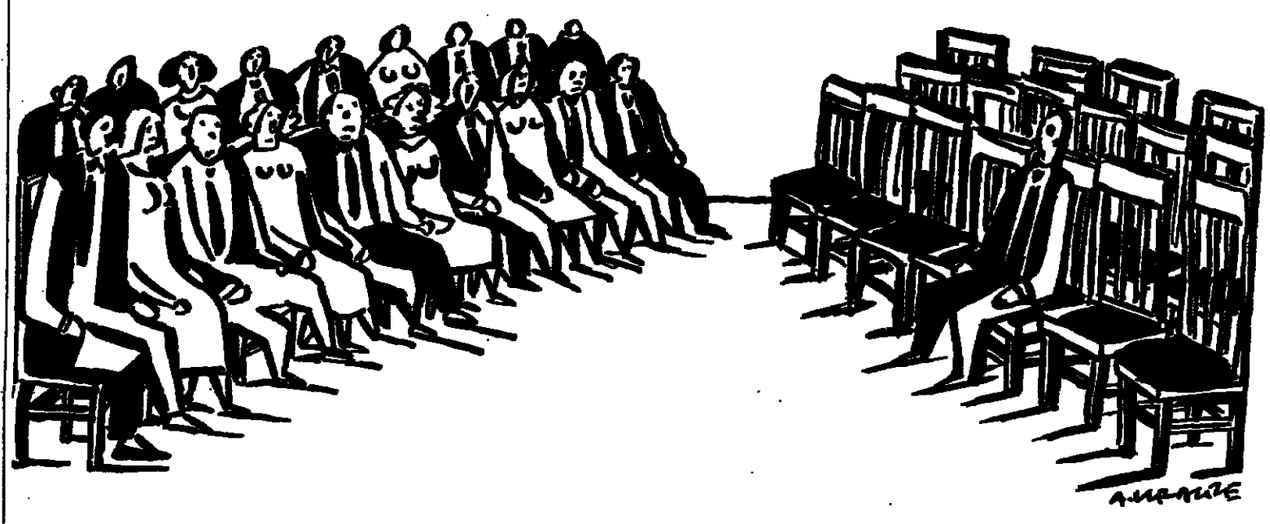
Perhaps a more appropriate gesture would be to repair the damage he has done to the Church of England as its adulterous future head. He could marry a woman vicar, settling *at once the woman question* while quietly endorsing feminism — something of a propaganda coup against Diana.

A BRIDE from a former colony would be an opportunity to heal old bitternesses. Someone like the Maori, Kiri Te Kanawa, who already knows her way around royal functions. Hong Kong's elite offers many possibilities, which would send reassuring signals for its future. This would be a chance to establish himself at the head of the new beige Britain.

Of course, the chances of him considering a true outsider are almost non-existent. When British aristocrats look outside, all they can see are its fellow-travellers in the public arena, the media and celebrities who fawn on the inner circles. Both Diana and Camilla have been represented as outsiders, a wild falsification of their aristocratic backgrounds. Neither has ever worked, making them utterly unrepresentative of Britain's ordinary women.

However, if Charles is not to be completely outflanked by the Blairs as the iconic, modern, one-nation family he needs to look beyond his usual horizons. Charles looks seedy and patriarchal alongside the decent hard-working Blairs. His only hope of survival in these populist days is not to ape them but to go one better, marry someone who makes them look elitist. Mel B of The Spice Girls would be an inspired choice: they've shown an obvious rapport and a common interest in inner-city problems. But then again, as a simple private citizen, he could please himself and no one would complain.

Reforming the election process



Andrew Adonis and **Stephen Twigg** want to use proportional representation to break up local government's rotten boroughs and one-party mini-states

Votes for a change

DEMOCRATIC renewal is central to the New Labour project. Yet local government, the bedrock of any successful democracy, is in a parlous state — weak not only in powers, but also in the local legitimacy necessary for it to play a larger role. Reform of the local electoral system is an essential first step to restoring trust and confidence in local government.

Proportional representation is no panacea. Other reforms — elected mayors, greater financial independence for town halls, and strategies for councils to become effective enablers — are also needed. But PR tackles two weaknesses in the present system: the prevalence of rotten boroughs and the poor representative credentials of many councils, particularly in metropolitan Britain.

Local one-party states are all too common under the existing first-past-the-post electoral system. In 14 of 32 London boroughs, one party currently has more than 70 per cent of the seats. Newham has 60 Labour councillors and no opposition; Richmond 44 Liberal Democrats against six Tory and two Labour; Westminster, 45 Tory against 15 Labour. Labour accounts for most of today's local landslides, but the Tories have gained similarly under previous Labour governments. Even the Liberal Democrats are virtually one-party rulers in many areas, especially in the south-west.

The rotten borough undermines local democracy. It disenfranchises around half of local electors in areas of one-party dominance. Landslides are rarely based on more than half the votes. In Cheltenham in 1995, the Liberal Democrats won 93 per cent of the seats with 49 per cent of the vote, as did Labour in Islington in 1990.

It is one thing to exaggerate the lead of the winning party, the supposed virtue of first-past-the-post, but another to eliminate the other parties. This rarely happens at national level because of the vagaries of an election across 650 constituencies — even Labour's May landslide, the biggest this century, gave it only 64 per cent of the Commons. Yet it is commonplace in local government.

So there are too many councils with no opposition, whose local administrations take their electorates for granted. Many barely bother even to campaign in local elections. This is the antithesis of democracy. The case for first-past-the-post at Westminster — that artificial one-party majorities are essential to strong government — is far weaker at local level, and undermined by the frequency with which it permits no local pluralism. For councillors to command confidence in handling controversial planning, housing, traffic, schooling and environmental proposals, they need to be able to debate them openly, as representatives of the whole community.

Rotten boroughs are an incitement to laziness, inefficiency and even corruption. These dangers are borne out by the real experience of local government familiar to all too many electors. Both Labour and the Tories have their halls of shame. The interventions of district auditors and the Audit Commission have been welcome, but these are second-best solutions demeaning to democracy. Far better to generate a political culture unlikely to breed corruption and maladminstration in the first place.

The time is ripe for the reform we propose. The Labour government is anxious to give greater powers to local councils, but is worried about their possible abuse. Proportional voting systems are part of Labour's plans for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, for precisely the reasons we advocate PR in local government. Labour is also committed to PR for Euro elections, and is under strong pressure to make the change before the 1999 Euro elections.

IN none of these cases is the introduction of PR held to pre-judge the question of electoral reform for Westminster, which will be decided by a referendum later in this Parliament. Many other countries use different electoral systems at local, regional and national levels.

The introduction of PR at this juncture, when Labour is the dominant party of local government, would free it from any claim of self-interest. Yet Labour and the centre-left will ultimately gain from the change. Progressive Britain will be the main beneficiary from a strong local democracy, which weakens the elective dictatorship in Whitehall and Westminster and restores faith in the capacity of local authorities to exercise public power on behalf of their communities.

As for a viable PR system for local government, there is one to hand in the single transferable vote in multi-member wards. Wards of two or three councillors are commonplace. By expanding them to contain between four and eight councillors — the number tailored to fit the most natural community — there would be a fair trade-off between proportionality and the retention of the direct link between councillors and voters.

PR at local level is not a "leap in the dark". Councils with no overall majority are common even under the existing electoral system and have been for more than a decade since the rise of the Liberal Democrats in local politics. Balanced councils have generally worked well, encouraging pluralism, openness and consensus in local government. This is the basis for building democratic local government nationwide.

The Cross We Bear — Electoral Reform for Local Government, by Andrew Adonis and Stephen Twigg is published today by the Fabian Society, £5.

Better a leader chosen by the few

Julian Critchley doesn't want votes for all in the Tory party

SINCE many newly-elected Tory MPs have never heard of Arthur Balfour, let us remind the 1922 Committee of his famous dictum — that he would sooner take advice from his valet than from the Conservative Party Conference.

The reconstituted committee, headed by Archie Hamilton, refuses to extend the franchise this time (it will be limited to the 164 survivors of the Great Disaster), but will contemplate a different franchise next time Tories wish to change their leader. They have merely passed the buck.

It is all the fault of the late Humphrey Berkeley, who, shocked by the emergence of Lord Home as leader, determined to do away with the Magic Circle. One man, one vote among MPs was to replace the old system of wide, if discreet, consultation in which the three pillars of the party — its MPs, its peers, and the National Union were drawn into choosing a leader. Archie Hamilton, instead of persuading the '22 to include ex-Tory MPs serving in the Lords, has kept the existing system in which a few survivors vote on behalf of those who have been deliberately excluded. Egged on by Dr Mawhinney, who has been flirting with the party activists, there are those in a shell-shocked party who have even gone as far as to advocate one man, one vote as if the Old Tories were New Labour.

Now I have spent 34 years as MP or Tory candidate, and some of my best friends have been my local party workers (on whom I was obliged to rely when there was an attempt at my deselection). I have had good officers, as was the case in the last Parliament, and bad, and the bad were ignorant, ill-educated and prejudiced. "Let's get rid of them blacks," was the rallying cry of the Aldershot Conservative Club.

Anyone who has ever paid a fleeting visit to a Tory party conference in an out of season seaside resort will have a good idea of what Tories en masse can be like. Dear old ladies who would not hurt a fly are driven to a frenzy by demagogues like Michael Portillo (the next Governor of the Falklands?), or Peter Lilley, who passes violet creams among the throng to curry favour. In order to survive, the platform is obliged each year to toss one of its members into the crowd in ritual sacrifice. Do we really want to give the vote to the Tartan-drinking Young Conservatives, or to the self-selected representatives of the grass roots? God forbid.

I might be persuaded to make room for the executive of the National Union, who have at least come up the hard way, but thus far, and no further. And how silly it is that the remnant of what was once a proud army turns its back on ex-Tory MPs sitting in the Lords in favour of the antebellum status quo. We suffer from a paucity of MPs and a poverty (with one obvious exception) of candidates. Are we all eventually to receive small boxes of violet creams?

Sir Julian Critchley was a Tory MP for 31 years

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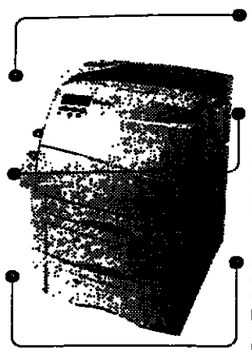

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Mikhail Anikushin

The shaping of Russia

FROM revolution to the New Russia, the life and work of the sculptor Mikhail Konstantinovich Anikushin, who has died aged 79, was closely connected to the history of Russia this century. A great artist and joyful man, whose talent was recognised throughout Russia and the world, his works stand in prominent positions in St Petersburg, Moscow, and many other Russian cities, as well as in Japan, India, Finland, China and Great Britain.

It was through winning the Soviet Union's first ever open competition, for a monument to Alexander Pushkin, that Anikushin became known. Despite the patronage of the Soviet government, Anikushin's classical academic style won over the, then politically correct, socialist realism. He proved that good art is above politics. Many who see this statue of Pushkin in the centre of Arts Square in St Petersburg, assume it to be 19th-century work, so well does it blend with the architecture.

Anikushin was born, one of seven siblings, into a Moscow working-class family. His father was a parquet floor maker: of this Mikhail Konstantinovich was always very proud. In 1935, Anikushin moved to Leningrad, studying for two years on a foundation course in preparation for entrance to the Academy of Arts.

War forestalled his graduation and from 1941 he served in the Soviet army. He saw his other great work in that city, The Monument to the Heroes of the Defence of Leningrad, as his own war effort commemorating those who had died during the siege which he had survived. This complex of statues stands in Victory Square, a powerful reminder as one enters the city of the bravery of the people of Leningrad. It shows workers pouring metal into shells, the People's Front, the pilots, the sailors, the soldiers, the road workers, the women and, most poetic of all, a Pieta-like figure of a mother holding her dying son. The work is surrounded by a museum commemorating the Heroes of Leningrad, and the steady click of a metronome, the only continuous sound that the city's radio played throughout the 999-day siege.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, in St Petersburg, as in the rest of the country, statues of Lenin were removed, but not the work of Mikhail Konstantinovich. The city considered his three-metre monument to the leader of the Russian revolution to be art not mere propaganda, a fine example of Soviet craftsmanship. Anikushin sculpted many Russian heroes; Chekhov, Tchaikovsky, astronauts, surgeons, ballerinas and generals. His massive studio, built specially for him in the late 1960s housed all of these ghosts together with an industrial crane. I was privileged to be taught by him and, from 1989, worked alongside him in this unique atmosphere.

> This was a man who believed that art was 99 per cent hard work and one per cent talent. He taught me 'to look' and not 'to rush'

Everyone who knew him loved him, the way his face screwed up with delight and he ground his teeth when excited. Not only was he my teacher, he was my best friend, always smiling and ready to help. I posed for him during the first year of our friendship, sat up high on a rotating platform in the cold grey light of Russian winter.

Anikushin would only work with natural light, believing that electricity was not classical. He had beautiful hands, elegant fingers with perfectly manicured nails, never a spot of clay underneath the nail. These hands created shapes and images in the air, not waving about but clutching the atmosphere as though moulding clay.

We would listen to Caruso, crackling on an old 78-rpm gramophone and it would gradually lull me into a dream state, despite the cold. When working, he would pace to and fro from his piece, looking at both clay and subject from all angles. Every movement was definite, all proportions were correct; from the first lumps, the head was recognisable.

One of the standard phrases of Lenin's communism was: "Learn, Learn, Learn." Anikushin never stopped learning. From 1948 he taught at the Academy of Arts and the sculpture department bears his name. He was unconvinced by the worth of contemporary art, but was interested to meet the young artists and hear their opinions. This was a man who believed that art was 99 per cent hard work and one per cent talent. The most worthwhile lessons he taught me were "to look" and *not* "to rush".

He was the People's Sculptor of the Soviet Union and, true to his title, he loved people, and loved his Russia. I remember him in his cloth cap hailing cars and, with a huge rosy-cheeked grin, announcing: "I am Anikushin! Take this dear girl where she wants to go!" It always worked like a charm, how could anyone refuse him.

Last October his final work, to commemorate 300 years of the Russian Fleet, was unveiled. Appropriately placed between the Nakhimov Academy for Naval Officers, and the Cruiser Aurora, whose gun fired the opening shots of the 1917 Revolution. Anikushin embraced Russian history and Soviet times. His monumental works defy his own stature, no doubt they are the illustration of the man he felt within. For those of us left behind, they are memorials to a great man and examples of the lost patronage of the Soviet State.

Katya Galitzine

Mikhail Anikushin, sculptor, born October, 1917; died May 18, 1997

Art above politics . . . Anikushin (top) in his studio and (above) his Monument to the Heroes of the Defence of Leningrad, commemorating the 999-day siege PHOTOGRAPH (top): YURI BELINSKY

Sir Robin Kinahan

Bridge over the Troubles

SIR ROBIN Kinahan, who has died aged 80, was the quintessential Unionist establishment figure in pre-Troubles Northern Ireland. A captain of industry and commerce, an influential Orangeman and a prominent member of the Ulster Unionist Party, he also served as Lord Mayor of Belfast.

Kinahan courageously used his position as a business and public leader to confront widespread bigotry and sectarianism. He was also a pioneer in using his business contacts to develop cross-border links, initiatives sincerely undertaken without compromising his own strongly held beliefs.

If his vision and trail-blazing example had been more widely emulated in the fifties and sixties and translated by the Stormont government into tangible reform, removing the social and economic mechanisms which consigned Catholics to disadvantage, the subsequent history of Northern Ireland, arguably, would have been different. Above all, the Stormont system would probably have survived. The loss pained Kinahan until the end of his life.

His pioneering liberal instincts were first stimulated while running the family wine and spirit business, Lyle and Kinahan, which in Northern Ireland brought him into close contact with the Catholic community. In a society where discrimination was endemic, the drinks trade and bookmaking were virtually the only lucrative channels of commerce dominated by Catholics. Although Lyle and Kinahan was a prestigious company, its bottling plant and wine warehouses were in the Falls Road Catholic heartland of Belfast. So the prosperity of the company, ultimately amalgamated with the Ulster Brewery Company, was heavily dependent on the patronage of Catholic publicans and the commitment of the locally recruited workforce which "Mr Robin", as he was known in the firm, went to great lengths to nourish.

Kinahan's high standing with Catholics became publicly evident in March 1958 when he stood in the Belfast Clifton constituency for election to the Stormont parliament. His narrow 45-vote victory over Norman Porter, a hard-line Protestant fundamentalist, was attributed to the support of the local Catholic pub-owners and their clientele who canvassed for him.

However, he resigned the seat a year later when he was elected Lord Mayor of Belfast, having been a member of Belfast Corporation since 1948. In those days the energies of a number of Labour and independent councillors were creating in City Hall a radical, questioning atmosphere, which Kinahan actively fostered. In conjunction with a young councillor called Gerry Fitt, he helped secure unanimous support for a resolution condemning anti-Semitism after a spate of slogan-daubing on the synagogue and Jewish-owned premises in the city. Such cross-party unanimity was then a rare occurrence in Belfast.

When his term as Lord Mayor, for which he was knighted, expired in 1961, Kinahan had made such a significant contribution to improving community relations that two years later, his successor felt able to order the Union flag above City Hall to be flown at half-mast after the death of Pope John XXIII, the first time Catholic sensitivities had been so publicly recognised in the 40 years since partition.

Such ecumenism had its price, however, and Kinahan's polite attendance at Catholic funerals and weddings attracted the fiery wrath of the Rev Ian Paisley and his increasingly militant followers.

Kinahan was one of Ulster's most active businessmen, at one time either chairing or sitting on the board of some 60 companies. These included several drinks firms and others involved in bakery, tobacco, agriculture, telecommunications, insurance and banking. He chaired the Ulster Bank from 1970-82 and sat on the board of its NatWest parent.

Pioneering . . . Kinahan

Robert George Caldwell Kinahan was educated at Stowe School, Buckinghamshire, and then travelled extensively in pre-war Europe learning the wine trade prior to joining the family firm. During the second world war he served in the Royal Artillery. His final public position was Lord Lieutenant of Belfast from 1985-1991.

In 1950 he married Coralie de Burgh, a noted artist, and they entertained lavishly at their Castle Upton home on the northern fringes of Belfast, taking much amusement from the reaction of unsuspecting guests served with the meat of llama reared on their estate. She, two sons and three daughters survive him.

Chris Ryder

Sir Robin Kinahan, politician, born September 1, 1916; died May 2, 1997

Peter Winch

Philosophy with a humane face

PETER Winch, who has died aged 71, achieved international distinction with the publication in 1958 of *The Idea of a Social Science*, which quickly became a classic. Unusually for an analytical philosopher, he was discussed widely on the continent, especially in Germany where his work was taken up by the German philosophers, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Jürgen Habermas, and Karl-Otto Apel.

It was Rush Rhees who showed Winch the importance of Ludwig Wittgenstein's philosophy when they taught together at the University College of Wales, Swansea. Outside of philosophy, Wittgenstein is often associated with linguistic philosophy and the latter with triviality.

Winch's writings, show why that is a misunderstanding. His papers on ethics, political philosophy and religion, all in clear and elegant English, honour philosophy's promise to reflect on matters of the deepest human concern. They are striking for the way his discussions are nourished by his detailed attention to examples, never trivial, often from literature.

However, Winch took to heart Wittgenstein's remark that one of the most difficult things to understand in philosophy is when to stop. He believed that to mean that the kind of understanding philosophy can achieve is threatened by an illusory depth that is pursued because of an impatience with what is wrongly taken to be mere surface.

This tendency runs so deep in philosophy that it is probably right to say that someone who is not vulnerable to it is not doing philosophy. It often shows itself in the consequences of what Wittgenstein called a "craving for generality", or in the tendency to think what must be the case if we are to explain certain phenomena — forms of causality for example, or how words mean. It is hard for philosophers to see this unless their tendency to it is tracked down relentlessly in long discussions, so that one illusion after another is exposed and one knows one has nowhere else to go. Winch was a master at such discussion, and those who were most influenced by him were so because of it.

Even more than acquaintance with his writings, discussions with Winch showed the character of Wittgenstein's philosophy, and its radicalness. Winch was unusually sensitive to the connections and tensions that exist between philosophy as an academic discipline, philosophy conceived more generally, and a more general, reflective and politically or religiously engaged life of the mind.

His response to these tensions informs his book, *Simone Weil: The Just Balance*.

> His papers on ethics, political philosophy and religion reflect on matters of the deepest concern

Weil was admired as an engaged political and religious writer, but seldom taken seriously as a philosopher. Winch showed how many of Weil's preoccupations are within the mainstream of philosophical concerns with knowledge and language, as well as with morality, politics and religion. It is unlikely that anyone else could have done it. But his was not merely an academic achievement. The book's achievements are inseparable from the integrity with which he thought and lived those tensions — the thinking and the living being inseparable from one another.

These qualities, together with the breadth of his humane learning and his deep love of music, made him an ideal translator of an edition of Wittgenstein's remarks on philosophy, ethics, religion, literature and music to which Winch gave the title, *Culture and Value*.

They also made him a fine teacher and gave the character to the kind of philosophical seriousness he possessed and expected from his students (and colleagues). It was essential to the kind of seriousness it was that face to face discussion should be its pre-eminent vehicle. He brought one to see old problems in new ways, but even more importantly, he almost always took one to a further level of philosophical depth. Remarkably, he could do this even with novices in philosophy. But as always, the trick lay in knowing what was "mere surface" and what was depth. He believed that the spirit in which philosophy is done is essential to its very nature rather than merely to whether it is done well or badly, and this belief informed the freshness with which he approached all philosophical discussion. Its fruits prompted Jim Hopkins, a colleague at King's College London, to whisper in response to the quality of Winch's contribution to a discussion: "Isn't he wonderful".

During his distinguished career, Winch held many visiting appointments in the US and Europe, and received many honours. At the time of his death he was President of the Central Division of the American Philosophical Association. He published on a wide range of philosophical subjects, from Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* through ethics and political philosophy to the philosophy of religion, influencing discussion in all these areas.

Peter Winch died of a heart attack in his sleep, a merciful death for a man who did not live his life easily. He is survived by his wife Erica, his sons Christopher and David, and his dear and close friend Helen Geyer.

Raimond Gaita

Peter Guy Winch, philosopher, born January 14 1926; died April 27 1997

Letter: **Laurie Lee**

Cynthia Warth writes: I spent almost all of a lifetime wanting to meet Laurie Lee. From the moment when, as a young receptionist at Hamish Hamilton the publisher, I came across a review (with excerpts) in John O'London's Weekly of Lee's book *The Sun My Monument*. I was captivated. I wrote to him many times, sometimes sending him my own appalling poems. He always replied with kind words and constructive criticism, and at one time sent my young daughter a copy of *A Bloom of Candles*, after I had said it was the only one of his books we didn't possess. How did he have the time to correspond so fully with some unknown and surely irritating young woman?

Once, in London, I plucked up the courage to go to his Elm Park Gardens address. There, on the doorbell, the name — Lee. With pounding heart I rang — but there was no reply. That was the nearest I got — or didn't get — to meeting him.

From the time (at the request of a blind friend of mine) he made me a recording of some of his poems, and signed my copy of *Cider with Rosie* until I heard him once or twice on television, speaking gently and lyrically with such common sense, he always came up to one's expectations. It was nice to see *April Rise* in your obituary notice — one of his most beautiful poems, I think.

Birthdays

Helena Bonham-Carter, actress, 31; **Gill Coleridge**, literary agent, 49; **Jeremy Corbyn**, Labour MP, 48; **Jim Dobbin**, Labour MP, 56; **Roy Dotrice**, actor, 72; **Sir David English**, chairman and editor-in-chief, Associated Newspapers, 66; **Tony Greener**, chairman, Guinness, 57; **Alan Hollinghurst**, novelist, 43; **Prof Walter Laqueur**, historian, former director, Wiener Library, 76; **Peggy Lee**, singer, lyricist, 77; **Alec McCowen**, actor, 72; **Anne McGuire**, Labour MP, 48; **Stevie Nicks**, rock singer, 49; **Zola Pieterse** (née Budd), runner, 31; **Michael Portillo**, former Conservative minister, 44; **Prof Sally Ride**, American astronaut and physicist, 46; **Ian Sparks**, director, the Childrens Society, 54; **Lord Stevens**, hairman, United Newspapers, 61; **Philip Treacy**, fashion designer, 30; **Glenn Turner**, cricket coach, 50; **Roger Westbrook**, ambassador to Portugal, 56.

Death Notices

DAVIS, Constance (Dr), May 2nd 1997 aged 79 years. Service and cremation at *Springwood* Crematorium (Liverpool) on Thursday May 29th at 3pm. All enquiries to Thomas Porter & Sons Ltd, 142, Mary's Road, Garston, Liverpool 19. Tel 0151 427 4482.

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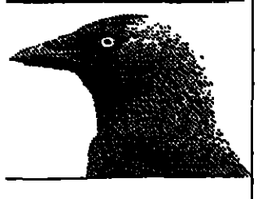
Jackdaw



Rude girl

IN *Sex* and *The Wicked Age*, Mae West flaunted her body, just stopping short of nudity. The New York Mirror's review of Sex comments: "She undresses before the public and appears to enjoy doing so." In the opening act, set in a Montreal brothel, Mae played *Honey, Let Yo' Drawers Hang Low* on the piano, a song (not named in the script) that was lifted whole from black brothels, or "jooks".

Her performance, wrote Zora Neale Hurston, "had much more of the flavour of the turpentine quarters than of the white bawd. I know that piece she played was a very old jook composition." In the cabaret scene she sang two Harlem favourites, *Sweet Man* and *Shake That Thing* (a song associated with Ethel Waters) and did a belly dance to the *St Louis Blues*.

In the last act, set in the Stanton's posh Westchester mansions, she sits down at the piano and begins to play Home Sweet Home, but abruptly switches to a blues. "That's more like you, Marge," says her admirer.

Emily Wortis Leider on West's borrowed low-down style in Interview magazine.

Letting go

PEMA Chödrön: You could say that we live in a fantasy, that what we call reality is actually a dream. This is an important truth — that this whole thing is a fantasy and we're totally caught up in it . . . This is the message of the first noble truth: suffering is universal. You are willing to see suffering as suffering. Obviously, the less you are caught in your own hope and fear the more you can see suffering very straightforwardly and without aggression. So accountability seems to mean you can be honest, incredibly honest . . . For me, the spiritual path has always been learning how to die. That involves not just death at the end of this particular life, but all the falling apart that happens continually. The fear of death, which is also the fear of groundlessness, or insecurity, or not having it all together — seems to be the most fundamental thing that we have to work with. Because these endings happen all the time. Things are always ending and arising and ending. But we're strangely conditioned to feel that we're supposed to experience just the birth part and not the death part.

We have so much fear of not being in control, of not being able to hold on to things. Yet the true nature of things is that you're never in control. You can never hold on to anything. That's the nature of how things are . . . We can stop looking for some idealised moment when everything is simple and secure. This second of experience, which could be painful or pleasurable, is our working basis. What makes all the difference is how we relate to it.

Pema Chödrön, director of the Buddhist Gampo Abbey, Nova Scotia, interviewed by Bell Hooks in the Utne Reader.

Strong waters

RIVER Gods had become a baroque garden cliché and, in an age of absolute monarchs, a means of showing that even a country's rivers were subject to the King. What else could be their role in the *parterre d'eau* at Versailles? There an element of sexism enters, for the rivers are men and their tributaries women. But the quality of the bronze sculpture at Versailles can only be described as superb. Those, like me, who are devotees of Het Loo, William III's more modest baroque garden in Holland, will recognise in the figures of the Rhine and Ijssel, back to back, a re-working of Caprarola and Bagnaia — but what of it? They preside from the terrace and give unity to its waters.

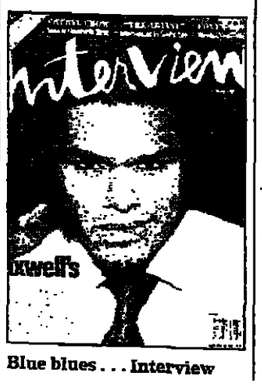
River gods had a potent life as long as a garden was meant to be read. The landscape movement hit our icon badly but by the 1780s, Mrs Coade, the manufacturer of Coade stone ornaments, must have had a market — the river god she produced by John Bacon was, at £109, the most expensive item in her catalogue. One of her two survivors was once part of my empire at Ham House, when Director of the V&A. Marooned well away from water, he was designed to be a source for it. Would that one could buy a reproduction. It would solve many a problem.

Sir Roy Strong according approval to repro? Can we believe it? In Gardens Illustrated.

Coming shortly

SPECIAL: The point of sweeps [autumn and spring weeks when US TV tries to attract extra viewers] is to get as many people as possible to watch . . . for any particular programme this necessarily means getting more people to watch the show than usual, which necessarily means stunts, special effects, high concepts, and most odiously of all, celebrity guests. (And most odiously of odiously, this somehow resulted in two programmes this month featuring Donald Trump cameos without parental advisories) . . . And so in the end, loyal viewers *come* away disappointed, and sweep-suckers viewers don't see why anyone would watch these shows in the first place. Season-ender: It makes you want to shoot JR all over again. Ever since then, it seems, every show has to end on a cliffhanger. It matters little that true suspense is simply not possible; popular characters only die when their occupants get movie careers. We know, for example, that unless *The X-Files* plans to get truly weird, Fox Mulder didn't really commit suicide; he's still under contract. But the most annoying cliffhanger this year was *Homicide*; in the last two minutes, apropos of nothing that had gone before, Yaphet Kotto told the squad room he had just received a phone call from headquarters and that "three months from now, none of us may be here". Maybe me neither.

That's buggered the summer for half of you, then. Larry Doyle, scriptwriter for The Simpsons, on what he hates about the miserable month of May on TV for the online mag www.Slate.com.



Blue blues . . . Interview

All the world

THE Independent . . used to be my favourite paper, but now I buy it for a laugh; though you have to admire an editor insane enough to publish his own poetry . . . The sneery, whiny voice of Guardian excelled at exclusively for a long time popup all over the place now.

Reading a newspaper is bit like going to a good funeral. Everybody loves a funeral because you're not expected to have a good time, whereas the aggressive romance of a wedding is a recipe for social disaster . . . Of course, if you really want to know what's going on in the world, you need a magazine. Preferably Hello!, which has colour pictures of the best wakes. And I almost had a heart attack when I read in the latest Vogue that the trichologist Philip Kingsley is Tony Blair's guru.

Carole Morin mordant in the New Statesman.

You can e-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4368; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Edited by Vanessa Harlow

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Plea to keep windfall tax low, this page
Tomorrow: Alarm bells ring at Channel 4

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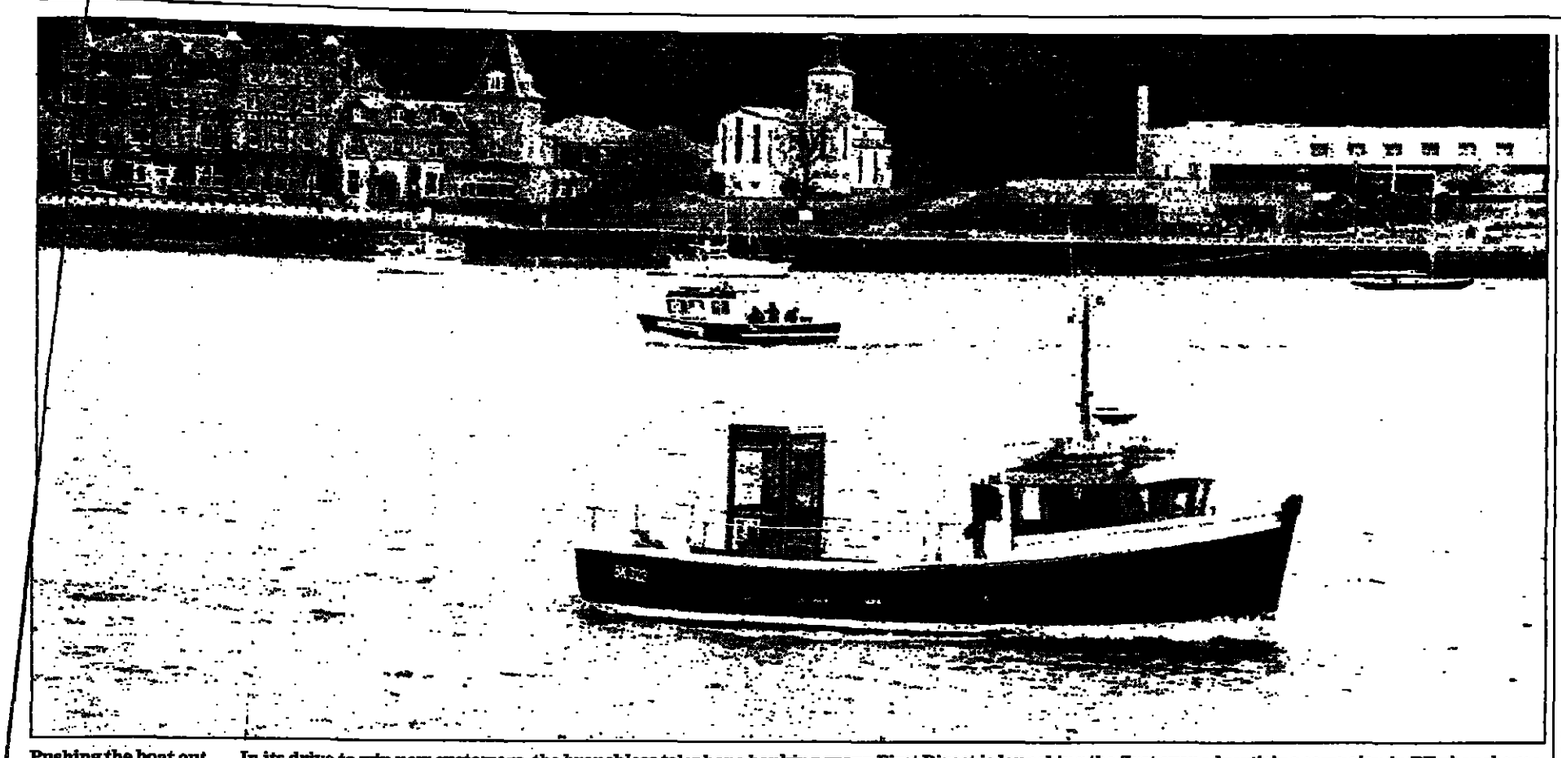


Pushing the boat out . . . In its drive to win new customers, the branchless telephone banking group First Direct is launching the first ever advertising campaign in BT phoneboxes, including the kiosk above, seen setting sail for the Hebridean Isle of Mull PHOTOGRAPH: TONY LARKIN

Car maker talks to unions about introducing flexible practices in exchange for jobs and investment

Vauxhall imports work deal

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

VAUXHALL is to introduce continental-style working practices at its car plants in return for massive investments in new car production and jobs.

Although company and unions are tight-lipped about the talks, both sides are thought to be keen for an agreement which would lift productivity at the two factories, usher in more flexible working and create hundreds of new jobs.

Union negotiators are due to meet management in early June in a two-day session aimed at concluding a deal. Armed with the new arrangements, Vauxhall managers will then lobby the board of General Motors, which owns Vauxhall, for investment to build the new Corsa small car at the Luton factory.

Both unions and managers believe that Luton's long-term future hinges on its success in winning the investment. Sales of the larger Vectra car, also built there, are starting to fall off and production is slated to drop sharply in coming months.

Manufacture of the Corsa, alongside the Vectra and its eventual replacement, would allow Vauxhall to recruit a third shift to work nights at the plant. But, more importantly, the small car would give the plant greater employment security because levels of production could be switched between models according to demand.

But to win the investment, Vauxhall managing director Nick Reilly is thought to need promises of higher productivity and flexibility to ward off competing claims from other continental plants.

The working practices under discussion include a "corridor agreement" used in Germany, whereby shopfloor employees work longer hours at short notice when demand requires. These hours are banked and used as time off when demand is slacker.

One source close to the talks said Luton "would not survive with such [European] overcapacity on one car". He said the corridor agreement would allow the plant to meet production schedules "at the drop of a hat".

Unions are thought to want a shorter working week in return, and to ensure members are not out of pocket as a result of changes in pay for working unsociable hours.

The GM board is due to decide where to build the new Corsa within six months, and possibly as early as next month. The car will probably start production in 2000.

Parallel talks are under way at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside, where a third shift is also planned. The company is now putting in new production facilities to build the Astra car and to lift productivity sharply in a £300 million modernisation programme.

Vauxhall's move mirrors that of Rover, the BMW subsidiary, which is negotiating with unions over a new jobs for life deal in return for flexible working. Rover wants the freedom to increase hours at short notice, with workers given time off in lieu.

In exchange, the company will concede greater freedom on holidays and guaranteed overtime. Workers will not be sacked so long as they are flexible about what they do.

The Corsa, built in Spain, Mexico and Germany, would come to a Luton factory already modernised two years ago by a £136 million investment aimed at improving the quality of the bodyshop.

OECD offers Russia route to membership

Richard Thomas in Paris

RUSSIA will tomorrow be offered a "stepping stone" towards full membership of the OECD, the world's exclusive club of rich countries, in a move by the West to help resuscitate Moscow's stalled programme of economic reform.

A year after the Russian government applied to join the 29-member Organisation for Co-operation and Development, a "liaison committee" will be established to strengthen economic links across the old Iron Curtain. The announcement will be made at the end of a two-day meeting between OECD ministers in Paris.

The OECD Secretariat sees the committee — which will include representatives from all members as well as Russia — as a testing ground for future membership.

"The main task of the committee is to help Russia put in place the market institutions to move swiftly to a free market economy," an OECD official said.

OECD insiders suspect Russian liberalisation has been derailed by political instability, fears of the tenure of President Yeltsin and by the expansion of organised crime. The World Economic Forum said last week that Russia was at the bottom of the international list for investors and that reform seemed to have ground to a halt.

In a separate measure, the ministerial meeting is expected to agree to criminalise the bribing of government officials by companies competing for lucrative contracts in the Third World.

The US already prohibits American firms from using bribery in the tendering process, and will complain that companies from other OECD countries are gaining an unfair advantage by allowing the practice. The UK — represented by Helen Liddell, the new economic secretary to the Treasury — is likely to support a general move to punish bribery.

After the formal end of the OECD ministerial conference tomorrow, a meeting will be held with an invited Russian delegation to outline the plans for the liaison committee and discuss moves to help other former Communist countries. Hungary and the Czech Republic are already OECD members.

Tomorrow will also see the signing of an accord between Russia and Nato clearing the path for former Warsaw Pact countries to join Nato.

Call for unity as the Co-op digs in

Roger Cowe

THE Co-operative movement yesterday issued a defiant challenge to any potential bidder waiting to follow up the recent attack from entrepreneur Andrew Regan who failed in his attempt to break up the CWS.

The annual Co-operative Congress, the parliament of the movement, called for "all necessary steps" to be taken to conserve the assets of Co-op societies "for the benefit of current and future generations of Co-operators."

These steps include a new Co-operative Act which would clarify the position of Co-ops. The congress president, Pauline Green MEP, said she hoped to see the act passed during this Parliament. But she told the conference in Cardiff that Co-ops had to perform better and work more closely together, especially the CWS and its sister organisation, Co-operative Retail Service (CRS).

She said: "Boards of directors must hold their management to account for their shortcomings. The movement must do better at what it ought to do best — co-operate, for goodness sake. Let the CWS and CRS focus on what they can do together rather than bang on about their differences which only a handful know about, let alone care about."

A stream of speakers warned that other predators were waiting to pounce, and that they would be more difficult to defeat than Mr Regan. "We should beware of basking in our temporary success. Were we really so united?" asked Keith Patterson.

Harry Tring, from Sheffield, said unification was essential. He said: "We must look at what the movement needs, not what is good for individuals. The only way is for the CWS and CRS to merge. Let us prepare ourselves so that we never face these problems again."

Alan Gill, from Leeds, said the Co-op must return to its values, as demonstrated by the Co-op Bank. "There will be another Regan and if we don't get back to our co-operative principles we don't deserve to survive."

Speaking after the debate, the CWS chief executive, Graham Melmoth, promised that action was being taken behind the scenes to end the traditional hostility between the two largest Co-op retailers. "It is important for CWS and CRS to trade and work together," he said.

● Congress was told that last year total Co-op sales rose almost 2 per cent to nearly £8 billion, but profits fell from £160 million to £136 million.

Plea to keep windfall tax low

Nicholas Bannister

THE INSTITUTE of Directors will today demand that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, should keep his proposed windfall tax on the privatised utilities to "the lowest possible level" even though the water companies — one of the main targets of the tax — are this week expected to start reporting record profits.

The IoD, in its Budget submission to the Chancellor, says the Government's proposed welfare-to-work programme, which is to be funded by the windfall tax, is too ambitious.

The Government intends to use the programme to get 250,000 long term unemployed young people off the dole queues and into work.

The IoD claims that young people out of work for between six months and a year have a good chance of finding a job anyway, so including them in the programme would only add to the cost.

The City is looking for clues as to how the water industry will cope with the ramifications of the windfall levy when they report their full year results over the next few weeks. Anglian Water is due to kick off the sector's results season on Wednesday with pre-tax profits expected to be up from £238.6 million to between £242 million and £260 million.

The IoD has also told Mr Brown that there is no justification for higher taxes to fine tune the economy, and suggested that the "least worst" tax raising option would be the phased abolition of mortgage interest relief. There was also a case for a modest tightening in fiscal policy.

Brokers HSBC James Capel today suggests that Mr Brown could raise at least £7 billion through increasing personal sector taxation, for example, by phasing out mortgage tax relief or restricting personal allowances to the basic rate.

The firm's economics team also said the Budget needed to include "a radical reform or proposal to reform the structure of UK corporation tax, which is currently biased against investment".

It said the proposals needed to go well beyond a simple reduction in advanced corporation tax, which would raise revenue but do very little to lower the cost of capital for industry.

Ghost websites alert Bank to Net's crime potential

Tim Radford and Nicholas Bannister

BUSINESSES with Internet pages should watch out for an entirely new crime — the ghost website.

A new, unpublished report by the National Criminal Intelligence Service reveals organised crime's use of Net technology to create problems for business and law agencies.

The Bank of England warns at the same time that people depositing money with organisations over the Internet risk losing it.

"Fraud on the Internet is just beginning," said Gareth McLachlan of the organised crime unit. Workers have used the Net to defraud their own companies, or to steal data.

"There was a case recently of a company which set up a marketing scheme, getting people to invest: it is a basic pyramid scheme and that is going through the courts at the moment. They estimate they made something like $9 million [£5.5 million] in five months."

The other scam is the advance-fee fraud. "They set up a website that looks reputable, saying: we will provide financing for a business venture, submit a business plan and $10,000 for our consideration fees. If you go down that route, as a couple of victims have done, you are asked for more and more money."

A simpler way is to use a website to "offer" credit-card sales, thereby fraudulently gaining access to cardholders' numbers.

"One we have seen recently uses the techniques for hacking webpages. A company was selling modems over the Net. Somebody replaced the website with an almost identical one which advertised modems for about £100 less. Because this company had set up an automated system to take credit card numbers and process orders, they were contractually obliged to sell the modems at that price, which led to a substantial loss."

The trick, he says, is to exploit programming weaknesses to gain control of the server, move the webpage file and put another in its place. If you don't do something obvious — as happened to America's CIA, which suddenly became the Central Stupidity Agency — you could get away with it for a while.

"If all you are changing is a phone number so that the orders go to a rival company, then it is much harder for the web administrator to notice."

Mr McLachlan is the author of the NCIS report on computerised crime. He will be introducing its themes at a computer-crime conference in London next week. He cannot, he says, put numbers to the scale of potential hazard.

"We are still not even able to come up with a number for people using the Internet. So coming up with a number for how often people commit crimes is impossible at this stage."

Economics Notebook

Second chance for Silicon UK

Victor Keegan

TONY BLAIR's breathtaking start has left friends and foes gasping for air. But, in the end, he will be judged not by how fast he came out of the starting stalls but by how well he finished: that means how much sustainable economic wealth Labour generates and how equitably it is distributed.

The outgoing Conservatives — despite windfall oil and privatisation revenues — managed only modest growth, inequitably spread.

Can Labour do any better without all these advantages? Success will depend on macro-economic policy. We must wait until the Budget to see whether Gordon Brown has the stomach for the fiscal adjustment necessary to keep sterling on this planet.

But equally daunting is the challenge of micro-economic policy. Thatcherism's historic bequest was reform of the labour markets. This Government's task is quite different. It is management of the digital revolution — the Internet in particular — as it reaches out to a mass audience.

This offers fantastic rewards, comparable to those during the Industrial Revolution, but there is a catch. It is a near American monopoly dominated by companies like Microsoft (which makes over 90 per cent of all personal computer operating systems), Intel which makes the key micro chip, Netscape which dominates the software used to browse the Web, Cisco which makes the routers, and so on.

Britain has pockets of excellence and sprouting opportunities (from software for computer games to the raw material for a film industry) but virtually nothing to challenge the Divine Right of the Americans to do it their way.

The evolution of the digital revolution, from an elitist hobby into a mass market, offers an opportunity for Britain to get back into the game.

Unlike setting up a new plant, it doesn't require vast capital nor the assembly-line mentality which seems anathema to the British psyche. Nor does it necessarily require the establishment of a world-wide delivery system, because that is precisely what the Internet offers for nothing.

WHAT it does need is brains and invention — with which the British are well-endowed — a determination to succeed and a better system of venture capital to match people with ideas to entrepreneurs with money.

In an interesting Demos commentary published today, Charles Leadbeater argues for a silicon transplant to turn Britain into the California of Europe, successfully diversified from declining smokestack industries into a hive of information technology companies.

It is the Californian model, with its mix of public infrastructural investment, networks and "knowledge entrepreneurs" that we should follow rather than the Asian one. He points out that one firm alone, Kleiner Perkins, has invested $1 billion (£625 million) to help start 250 companies which in 1995 were worth $85 billion.

THINK what might happen in Europe if Tony Blair used his reforming zeal to persuade other member states to divert half of the billions squandered every year by the CAP into venture capital funds to leap-frog Europe back into the digital revolution.

The whole of Europe would gain from such a move — thereby bolstering Blair's credentials to advancing it — but Britain could gain disproportionately. The UK has the best venture capital infrastructure in Europe and English is the lingua franca of the Internet.

There is no better time than now because the expansion of the Internet towards a mass market is creating demand for new, cheaper products (like £300 network computers and set-top boxes to convert televisions, plus masses of software opportunities) that don't have to be produced by the US companies that dominate the market.

What's the catch? The main one is ideological. It requires government intervention at a time when it has gone out of fashion. But this is a new kind of intervention, not the nationalisation of very old Labour. It would be designed to transform the infrastructure in which these decisions are made and make available (on private sector terms) risk capital to correct a big imperfection in the markets.

MONEY alone won't guarantee success. The biggest problem (and cost) is not generating new ideas and companies but ensuring they are able to market their products successfully.

No one has satisfactorily explained why, during the past 20 years, Britain reached a pre-eminent global position in pharmaceuticals yet lost out on computers and software.

No one accuses Microsoft, the world's biggest independent software firm, of ever having had an original idea yet it is still increasing its formidable grip on the information world.

But its continued success isn't predestined. The unprecedented economics of the Internet — in which there is no extra cost in producing 40 million copies of software than one (with free telephonic delivery) is transforming the opportunities for new and late entrants to get a slice of the action.

In the race for digital supremacy, the best advice for Britain and the rest of Europe lies, as so often, in the greatest cliche. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. There could be no more fitting motto for an integrated Europe.

House buyers 'put heart before head'

Lisa Buckingham

WHETHER it costs £30,000 or £500,000, most house buyers will happily splash out for their "castle" on gut instinct rather than for rational reasons. But, according to a new survey, as home owners face a possible cut in mortgage interest tax relief in the next Budget, letting their hearts rule their heads is often to their financial detriment.

Although location remains the over-riding factor for four out of every five home buyers, only a handful of those moving house ever bothers to check the bills they are likely to pay on their new property. And nearly 80 per cent of people decide to buy the second they walk through the front door. "Although buying a house is a practical business requiring a great deal of organisation, the survey reveals that the vast majority of people trust gut instinct and know instantly when they have found the right house," said Adrian Murphy, of glass company Pilkington, which commissioned the research.

Although price was crucial to the 878,000 people who moved home in England and Wales last year, only 16 per cent of buyers were worried about their future neighbours.

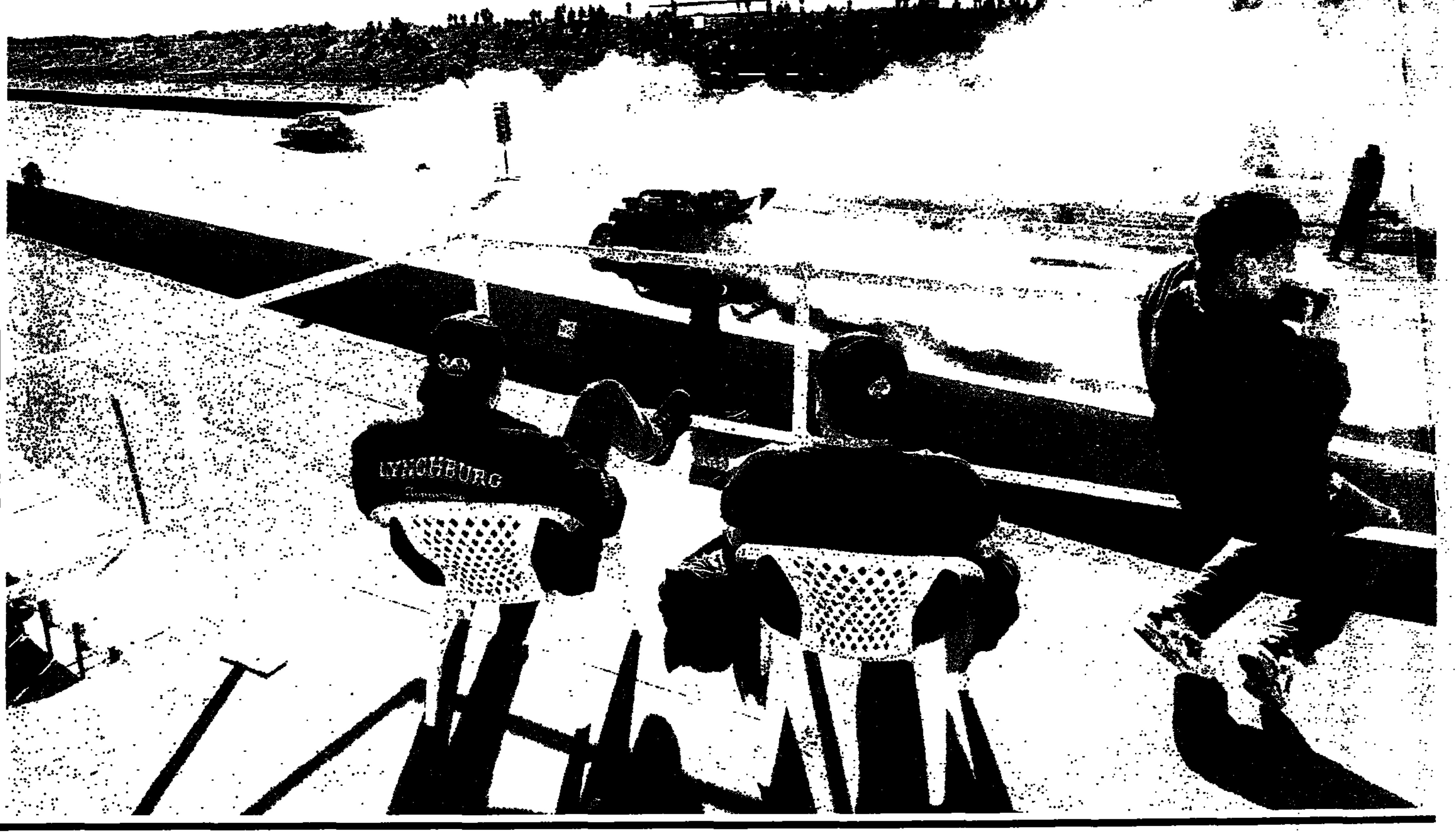
The results of the research offered hope for the glass maker in that people like light, airy houses but most builders are tending to decrease window sizes to conform with energy efficiency rules.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.05	France 8.97	Italy 2,650	Singapore 2.27
Austria 18.80	Germany 2.6700	Malta 0.6030	South Africa 7.05
Belgium 55.10	Greece 426.50	Netherlands 2.9900	Spain 223.50
Canada 2.18	Hong Kong 12.23	New Zealand 2.28	Sweden 12.06
Cyprus 0.7950	India 58.45	Norway 11.13	Switzerland 2.22
Denmark 10.24	Ireland 1.0460	Portugal 269.00	Turkey 221,420
Finland 8.15	Israel 5.55	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5900

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

PARTING SHOT



Putting their feet down . . . Andy Robinson in his Rover (far left) leaves the Ford Popular of Danny Cockerill trailing before an admiring audience at Santa Pod. These cars, in the pro-modified door-slammers category, are able to reach speeds of 200mph

Photograph by David Mansell

Hancock's belter has the Beeb blushing

SCREEN BREAK

Martin Kelner

IN the final days of ITV's World of Sport programme I seem to recall balloon hopping featuring prominently. The competitors, each of whom was attached to a small hot-air balloon, would race along a runway before launching themselves skyward. The winner, I believe, was the one who covered the longest distance while airborne. It was a laughable spectacle, resembling those scratchy black and white newsreels of early attempts at man-powered flight.

If memory serves, when there was no balloon hopping available, World of Sport would fill the desperate hours between Saint and Greavesie and the ITV Seven with endless footage of idiots diving into the sea from cliff-tops somewhere in Central America. Those golden days of crypto-sport were revived for me by a clip in They Think It's All Over in which two men appeared to be racing Dinky toys attached to elastic bands. This was a sport called belt sander racing, about which the panellists made merry, until the host Nick Hancock announced that belt sander racing was to be the mainstay of BBC Sport's autumn schedule.

I think he was joking but it was a gag that will not, I suspect, have pleased BBC Sport as much as it appeared to please Hancock himself. On a weekend when Sky had captured so much of the live sport that it had to commandeer Sky One as an overspill channel for the action squeezed off Sky Sports One, Two and Three, any chuckles at the BBC will have been decidedly hollow. Nor will the deal between Chelsea and Channel Five for the European matches have helped.

These must be anxious days at BBC Sport, with the established crowd-pleasers among their presenters hurriedly offered golden handcuffs with no sign that there will be anything very substantial to which to handcuff them. Sue Barker — good call — has been lined up to replace David Coleman on Question of Sport and there is talk of Sir Desmond being handed the poisoned chalice of a chat show, a format so moribund it is probably more in need of a Doris Stokes than a Desmond Lynam. If the recent chat-show experiences of Aspel, Wogan and Gaby are anything to go by, Sir Des may soon regret spurning the Sky gold reportedly on offer.

> If the recent chat-show experiences of Aspel, Wogan and Gaby are anything to go by, Sir Des may regret spurning the Sky gold

As we reach the dog-end of tobacco sponsorship, TV money becomes increasingly important to sport, which probably means more events like the European super bantamweight fight between Spencer Oliver and Martin Krastev last week, when the homely Edmonton venue was dominated by a huge Sky hoarding and the MC John McDonald prefaced each announcement with "Sports fans and Sky fans . . ." A Sky fan, one assumes, is someone who actually enjoys paying £26.99 a month for something that used to be thrown in with the licence fee.

The terrestrial channels, starved of significant action (and some of the insignificant action as well — Live TV, a Manchester cable channel, has signed a deal to cover United's summer tour to the Far East) will have to box extremely clever to keep the much coveted young male sports-loving audience.

This presumably is why Hancock is currently the hottest property on TV and why They Think It's All Over, which ended its current run on Saturday, has already been booked for a new series in the autumn despite showing signs of being past its sell-by date. Sure, Hancock is funny — although nowhere near as funny as he thinks he is — but the constant jokes about the size of Gary Lineker's ears, about England's cricketers and about Manchester United's non-Mancunian following are now becoming a little stale, while most of Rory McGrath's and Lee Hurst's jokes were not funny in the first place.

They Think It's All Over has irony, though, a quality strained at by Live and Dangerous on Channel Five and Under The Moon on Channel Four and missed by a mile. I fear we will suffer more of these post-loaded sports shows, where an amusing haircut and a smart-arse attitude are meant to compensate for a lack of action.

This is bad news for those of us who would rather have all our teeth removed without anaesthetic than watch another show with Dominik Diamond in it and begins to make the belt sander racing deal look attractive. Alternatively, I wonder what Saint and Greavesie are doing these days.

TV SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Today

Live Golf Close of the PGA Championship from Wentworth.
BBC2, 11am-12noon and 1.30-5.30pm
Live Tennis Opening day of the French Open from Paris.
Eurosport, 10am
Racing From Sandown Park, including the Temple Stakes at 3.05pm.
C4, 1.55pm
Live Football First Division play-off final, Crystal Palace v Sheffield United.
Sky 3, 2pm
Live Super League St Helens v Wigan Warriors.
Sky 1, 7pm

Tuesday 27

Live Cricket Kent v Warwickshire in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals.
Sky 1, 10.55am
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 10am
Racing From Hexham and Sandown Park.
Sky 3, 6.30pm
Live Super League Halifax Blue Sox v Bradford Bulls.
Sky 1, 7.30pm
There's Only One Barry Fry A look at a manager's season.
ITV, 10.40pm

Wednesday 28

Live Rugby Union Border v British Lions.
Sky 1, 2pm
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 10am
Racing From Ripon and Newbury.
Sky 3, 6.30pm

Thursday 29

Live Athletics From Seville.
Eurosport, 7pm
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 10am
Live European PGA Golf Day one of the Deutsche Bank Open.
Sky 1, 10.30am-12.30pm and 3-5pm

Friday 30

Live Super League Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves.
Sky 1, 7pm
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 10am
Live Golf Deutsche Bank Open.
Sky 1, 10.30am-12.30pm and 3-5pm
World Wide Rugby Super 12s.
Sky 3, 4pm

Saturday 31

Live Football Poland v England World Cup qualifier.
C5, 7pm
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 10am
Live Cricket Day one of Derbyshire v the Australians.
Sky 3, 11am
Grandstand Including racing, touring cars, rowing and cricket.
BBC1, 12.30pm
Live Golf Deutsche Bank Open.
Sky 2, 1pm
Live Rugby Union Western Province v British Lions.
Sky 1, 2pm
Racing From Musselburgh and Kempton.
Sky 2, 6.30pm
Athletics Hengelo Grand Prix.
Eurosport, 7.45pm

Sunday 1

Challenge of the Champions Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson face for the Fastest Man on Earth title.
Eurosport, 9pm
Live Cricket Derbyshire v the Australians.
Sky 2, 11am
Sunday Grandstand Including the French Derby and cricket.
BBC2, 1pm
Live Golf Deutsche Bank Open.
Sky 1, 1pm
Live Tennis French Open.
Eurosport, 2pm
World League of American Football London Monarchs v Amsterdam Admirals.
Sky 3, 2.30pm
Live Super League Halifax Blue Sox v St Helens.
Sky 1, 6.30pm

Weekend results

SOCCER

INTERNATIONAL

England (1) **2** Lee 20, Wright 78 52,676 — **South Africa** (1) **1** Masinga 43

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Kilmarnock (1) **1** Wright 21 — **Falkirk** (0) **0** 48,953

NATIONWIDE PLAY-OFF FINALS

Division Two

Brentford (0) **0** 34,149 — **Crewe** (1) **1** Smith 34

Crewe promoted to Division One

Division Three

Northampton (0) **1** Frain 90 — **Swansea** (0) **0** 46,804

SPANISH LEAGUE: Saturday: Barcelona 1 Deportivo Coruna 0

FRENCH LEAGUE: Saturday: Monaco 2 Nantes 1; Paris St Germain 2 Strasbourg 1, Auxerre 3 Nice 1 Rennes 1 Bastia 3, Le Havre 1 Bordeaux 2, Lens 0 Caen 0, Cannes 0 Nancy 1 Montpellier 1 Guingamp 0, Metz 1 Lille 0 Lyon 8 Marseille 0

GERMAN LEAGUE: Saturday: Hamburg 2 Borussia Dortmund 1, Bochum 6 St Pauli 0 Duisburg 4 Borussia Moenchengladbach 2, Bayern Munich 4 VfB Stuttgart 2, Arminia Bielefeld 1 Hansa Rostock 3, Schalke 0 Freiburg 2, Karlsruhe 3 1860 Munich 0, Werder Bremen 1 Fortuna Duesseldorf 0; Cologne 4 Bayer Leverkusen 0

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Boavista 5 Salgueiros 0; Espinho 1 Chaves 1 Farense 4 Leiria 0; Rio Ave 1 Setubal 0, Maritimo 8 Gil Vicente 0, Leca 0 Braga 0, Guimaraes 1 Belenenses 0 **Saturday:** Porto 3 Benfica 1. **Leading standings: 1** Porto (P32, Pts82), **2** Sporting (31-68). **3** Benfica (32-58)

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Cagliari 3 Sampdoria 4, Fiorentina 3 Reggiana 0, Internazionale 3 Napoli 2; Lazio 4 Verona 1, AC Parma 1 Bologna 0, Perugia 2 AS Roma 0; Udinese 4 Piacenza 0, Vicenza 2 AC Milan 0. **Friday:** Atalanta 1 Juventus 1

DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Sittard 2 Ajax Amsterdam 1; FC Twente Enschede 4 NAC Breda 0; De Graafschap Doetinchem 5 Roda JC Kerkrade 2: Vitesse Arnhem 1 NEC Nijmegen 1, RKC Waalwijk 5 AZ Alkmaar 0, FC Groningen 1 Sparta 2; FC Volendam 5 FC Utrecht 2, Feyenoord Rotterdam 4 SC Heerenveen 2, PSV Eindhoven 3 Willem II Tilburg 1

WORLD CUP: Asian zone group five: Uzbekistan 6 Cambodia 0. **Group seven:** Lebanon 2 Singapore 1 **Group eight:** Tajikistan 2 Turkmenistan 1; China 3 Vietnam 1.

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE FINAL: Brisbane 2 Sydney 0.

TOUR MATCH: Brunei 0, Chelsea 6.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES

Eastern Province 11 British Lions 39
Buenos Aires 23 England 21
Romania 33 Wales A 42

SANYO CUP

Wasps 31 World XV 52

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Bourgoin 21 Montferrand 17, Toulouse 23 Agen 16.

SUPER 12: Semi-finals: ACT 33 Wellington 20. Auckland Blues 55 Natal 36

PACIFIC RIM MATCH: Canada 35 Hong Kong 27

RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE: Championship: Hull KR 10 Leeds 32 **Division One:** Leigh 22 London 14 Widnes 48 Workington 6; Sheffield 52 York 12 **Division Two:** Doncaster 32 Carlisle 26 Keighley 22 Hemel Hempstead 20, Whitehaven 42 Barrow 24, Prescot 4 Huddersfield 76

BNFL NATIONAL PLAY-OFF FINALS: Junior U-16: Oulton 4 Stanningley 22. **Youth U-18:** Leigh East 6 West Hull 18 **Cup:** Dudley Hill 24 Ellenborough 28

AUSTRALIAN: Super League: Adelaide 22 Canterbury 42, Cronulla 32 Perth 2, Brisbane 20 North Queensland 20 South Queensland 28 Sydney City 14 Gold Coast 10 Western Suburbs 26 South Sydney 28 Illawarra 20 **Leading standings: 1** *Manly* (P11 Pts19) **2** North Sydney (11-15). **3** Newcastle (10-14)

GOLF

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Wentworth) **Leading third-round scores** (GB/Ire unless stated):

205
I Woosnam 67 65 **70**
206
D Clarke 66 74 **66**
207
E Els (SA) 69 71 **67**
N Faldo 70 67 **70**
209
S Ames (Tri) 70 69 **70**
D Gilford 67 70 **72**
210
D Edlund (Swe) 70 72 **68**
B Lane 69 72 **69**
A Cabrera (Arg) 73 67 **70**
211
P Walton 69 72 **70**
E Romero (Arg) 71 70 **70**
212
MA Martin (Sp) 70 75 **67**
D Carter 68 74 **70**
L Westwood 70 72 **70**
213
C Mason 73 71 **69**
J Sandelin (Swe) 72 71 **70**
J Robson 71 71 **71**
214
C Suneson (Sp) 73 72 **69**
C Montgomerie 69 69 **76**
215
R Chapman 71 75 **69**
R McFarlane 74 71 **70**
M Gronberg (Swe) 73 72 **70**
W Westner (SA) 74 70 **71**
R Burns 72 71 **72**
216
R Goosen (SA) 73 74 **69**
E Canonica (It) 74 73 **69**
MA Jimenez (Sp) 75 71 **70**
M Roe 72 73 **71**
P Curry 71 74 **71**
I Garbutt 71 73 **72**
P O'Malley (Aus) 73 71 **72**
JM Olazabal (Sp) 72 71 **73**
V Singh (Fiji) 70 73 **73**
M Davis 70 73 **73**
G Emerson 71 70 **75**
F Nobilo (NZ) 68 71 **77**
217
S Torrance 71 75 **71**
C Rocca (It) 70 76 **71**
J Haeggman (Swe) 69 76 **72**
I Pyman 71 73 **73**
A Oldcorn 72 71 **74**
T Bjorn (Den) 68 74 **75**
E Darcy 66 75 **76**
218
P Teravainen (US) 74 73 **71**
N Fasth (Swe) 72 75 **71**
C Whitelaw (SA) 69 76 **73**
J Coceres (Arg) 74 72 **72**
R Rafferty 74 72 **72**
M Farry (Fr) 68 78 **72**
J Townsend (US) 74 71 **73**
G Orr 67 78 **73**
A Bossert (Switz) 73 70 **75**
B Langer (Ger) 67 75 **76**
219
D Robertson 72 74 **73**
S Cage 71 75 **73**
D Borrego (Sp) 70 75 **74**
P-U Johansson (Swe) 70 75 **74**
P Hedblom (Swe) 73 71 **75**
K Eriksson (Swe) 70 71 **78**
220
P Broadhurst 72 75 **73**
I Garrido (Sp) 74 73 **73**
G Brand Jnr 76 71 **73**
P Harrington 74 73 **73**
G Evans 71 75 **74**
A Cejka (Ger) 74 72 **74**
A Forsbrand (Swe) 75 70 **75**
221
R Allenby (Aus) 73 72 **76**
D Smyth 71 72 **78**
222
M Pinero (Sp) 73 74 **75**
J Pinero (Sp) 71 71 **80**
223
D Higgins 72 75 **76**
F Roca (It) 76 71 **76**
R Karlsson (Swe) 67 76 **80**
224
B Hughes (Aus) 72 75 **77**
W Riley (Aus) 72 74 **78**
225
K Dickens 73 74 **78**
J Lomas 73 74 **78**
226
G Turner (NZ) 74 73 **79**
229
T Charnley 76 71 **82**

AN OPEN (Millstatter). **Final scores** (GB/Ire unless stated)

266
E Simsek (Ger) 65 68 65 **68**
269
D Lynn 71 68 63 **67**
S Tinning (Den) 68 68 67 **66**
K Carissimi (US) 66 67 70 **66**
271
M Goggin (Aus) 69 68 68 **66**
272
J Axgren (Swe) 69 70 66 **67**
S Gallacher 70 69 64 **69**
273
R Saller (Aut) 72 67 68 **66**
274
W Bennett 66 70 68 **70**
S Delagrange (Fr) 67 68 72 **67**
Also: 275 B Davis 69 70 67 69 **276** G Marks 72 67 71 66; A Barnett 72 70 65 69; A Collison 68 72 64 72.

MASTERCARD COLONIAL (Fort Worth, Texas). **Leading third-round scores:**

195
D Ogrin 66 67 **62**
196
T Woods 67 65 **64**
197
P Geydos 64 65 **68**
198
J Furyk 64 67 **67**
D Frost 66 63 **69**
199
S Pate 69 66 **64**
J Leonard 64 67 **68**
B Faxon 63 66 **70**
200
K Triplett 69 64 **67**
B Tway 65 66 **69**
201
L Roberts 67 68 **66**
D Duval 65 70 **66**
J Huston 67 67 **67**
202
S Cink 69 66 **67**
B Geiberger 69 65 **68**
D Hart 68 66 **68**
P Stewart 68 66 **68**
203
F Allem 67 69 **67**
J Sluman 66 69 **68**
D A Weibring 68 66 **69**
F Funk 67 65 **71**
204
L Rinker 66 73 **65**
G Day 69 70 **65**
P Blackmar 70 66 **68**
G Kraft 67 68 **69**
P Mickelson 70 64 **70**
205
G Waite 70 70 **65**
S Elkington 69 71 **65**
B Andrade 67 70 **68**
S Maruyama 69 68 **68**
B Lietzke 69 68 **68**
B R Brown 68 67 **70**
206
K Hosokawa 71 69 **66**
L Janzen 71 68 **67**
J Gallagher 67 72 **67**
C Stadler 73 66 **67**
R Damron 71 68 **67**
P Burke 68 70 **68**
J Maggert 71 67 **68**
T Kite 70 67 **69**
M Brooks 68 69 **69**
B Glasson 67 69 **70**
F Zoeller 71 65 **70**
207
M Dawson 70 70 **67**
B Estes 71 69 **67**
L Mattiace 73 67 **67**
L Nelson 68 69 **70**
L Wadkins 66 70 **71**
T Tolles 66 70 **71**
208
J Morse 71 67 **70**
P Jacobsen 67 71 **70**
E Fiori 67 71 **70**
K Gibson 70 66 **72**
M Standly 69 67 **72**
209
J Ozaki 72 68 **69**
S Hoch 70 70 **69**
D Martin 72 67 **70**
R Cochran 71 67 **71**
210
W Wood 70 70 **70**
C Pavin 71 68 **71**
M Hulbert 69 70 **71**
K Sutherland 69 69 **72**
J Sindelar 68 69 **73**
211
T Herron 67 73 **71**
S Simpson 68 72 **71**
M Brisky 72 68 **71**
B McCallister 70 68 **73**
C Parry 70 67 **74**
212
D Waldorf 69 71 **72**
B Henninger 65 74 **73**
E Aubrey 69 67 **76**
213
B Mayfair 68 72 **73**
M Calcavecchia 67 70 **76**
214
D Love III 70 70 **74**

ENGLISH LADIES' CLOSE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Saunton, East Course) **Final: K Rostron** (Clitheroe) bt K Burton (St George's Hill) four and two

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: Euro/African Zone: Group three: Bulgaria bt Monaco 3–0 (Bul names first: **I Keskinov** bt C Boslo 7–5 6–4; **O Stanoychev** bt S Graeff 6–3 4–6 6–3, **I Bratanov/I Traikov** bt C Boggetti/S Graeff 6–7 6–2 6–1. **Estonia** bt Moldova 2–1 (Est names first: G Vilms lost to **O Sinic** 1–6 3–6; **R Busch** bt J Gorban 3–6 6–4 6–3; **A Luzgin/Gert Vilms** bt J Gorban/O Sinic 6–2 6–3) **Kenya** bt Malta 2–1 (Ken names first: **A Cooper** bt G Asciak 6–4 6–2, **P Wekesa** bt M Schembri 6–3 4–6 6–2; A Cooper/N Odour lost to **G Asciak/C Gatt**). **Algeria** bt Cameroon 2–1 (Alg names first: M Mahmoudi lost to **A Mvogo** 0–6 0–30; **N Mahmoudi** bt Yann Auzoux 6–0 6–1 **N Haidmi/N Mahmoudi** bt Y Auzoux/A Mvogo 3–6 7–6 6–1). **Final standings: 1** Bulgaria; **2** Monaco, **3** Estonia; **4** Moldova; **5** Kenya; **6** Malta; **7** Algeria; **8** Cameroon

WORLD TEAM CUP (Duesseldorf). **Saturday: Blue Group: Spain** bt Netherlands 2–0, (Sp names first): **F Mantilla** bt P Haarhuis 6–1 6–1: **A Costa** bt J Siemerink 6–1 7–6. **Germany** bt Sweden 2–0 (Ger names first: **M Stich** bt M Gustafsson 2–6 7–6 6–4; **M Stoner** bt M Larsson 7–6 7–6. **Final: Spain** bt Australia 3–0 (Sp names first: **Mantilla** bt M Woodforde 7–5 6–2; **Costa** bt M Philippousis 3–6 7–6 7–6; **T Carbonell/F Roig** bt Woodforde/T Woodbridge 6–3 7–5).

MEN'S ST POELTEN GP (Austria). **Final: M Filippini** (Uru) bt P Rafter (Aus) 7–6 6–2.

WOMEN'S MADRID OPEN: Final: J Novotna (Cz) bt M Seles (US) 7–5 6–1.

WOMEN'S WORLD DOUBLES CUP (Edinburgh). **Final: N Arendt/M Bollegraf** (US/Neth) bt R McQuillan/N Miyagi (Aus/Japan) 6–1 3–6 7–5.

ATHLETICS

PRAGUE MARATHON: 1 J Kagwe (Ken) 2hr 9min 7sec; **2** J Kipngok (Ken) 2 9 11, **3** L Shvetsov (Rus) 2 9 16.

VIENNA MARATHON: 1 A Salah (Djibouti) 2hr 12min 53sec; **2** F Couto (Por) 2 12.57, **3** P Sarafynyuk (Ukr) 2 13 10.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 3 *Baltimore 8; Toronto 1 Anaheim 3;* NY Yankees 4 Boston 2. Chicago White Sox 8 Milwaukee 6, Detroit 4 Texas 8; Kansas City 11 Seattle 5; Minnesota 7 Oakland 4, Cleveland 6 Baltimore 1; Detroit 7 Texas 1. NY Yankees 3 Boston 9; Toronto 2 Anaheim 12. Chicago White Sox 1 Milwaukee 4, Kansas City 4 Seattle 6, Minnesota 4 Oakland 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Colorado 0 Houston 7; San Francisco 3 St Louis 8; Cincinnati 4 Chicago Cubs 1 (in 12), Philadelphia 4 NY Mets 8; Montreal 7 Pittsburgh 3, *Los Angeles 10 Atlanta 3;* San Diego 7 Florida 9. Philadelphia 2 NY Mets 1, Cincinnati 1 Chicago Cubs 3, Montreal 4 Pittsburgh 1; Colorado 8 Houston 7; LA 2 Atlanta 4; San Diego 5 Florida 3; San Francisco 2 St Louis 0.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (Pezinok, Slovakia): England 74 Slovakia 81.

NBA: Finals playoffs: Eastern Conference finals: Miami 74 Chicago 98 (Chicago leads series 3–0). **Western Conference finals:** Houston 118 Utah 100 (Utah lead series 2–1)

BOXING

WBA JUNIOR-LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE: (Seoul). **Choi Yong-soo** (S Kor, hldr) bt Koji Matsumoto (Japan) pts.

CRICKET

RED STRIPE CUP (Second day of four). **Port-of-Spain:** Leeward Islands 208 and 95 (Ramarine 4–28). Trinidad and *Tobago 110 (Quinn 4–39) and 9–2.* **St George's, Grenada:** Windward Islands 446 (J Murray 218, B Watt 50; Nagamootoo 4–104). Guyana 170–3 (R Sarwan 54, Z Hanif 51no). **Bridgetown:** Barbados 258 (F Reifer 59) and 21–0. Jamaica 282 (W Hinds 84, D Morgan 54; Gibson 4–55).

INDEPENDENCE CUP (Mohali, India): Sri Lanka 339–4, Pakistan 224 (43.4 overs). Sri Lanka won by 115 runs

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA. Eigth stage (From Mondragone, 212km): **Leading placings: 1** M Manzoni (It) Roslotto 5hr 20min 8sec, **2** S Giraldi (It) Kross at 23sec; **3** M Molinari (It) Asics 25; **4** G Mondini (It) Amore & Vita st; **5** M Piccoli (It) Brescialat 35; **6** D Zanette (It) AKI, **7** N Loda (It) Magnificio MG; **8** A Vatteroni (It) Scrigno; **9** A Paluan (It) Cantina Tollo; **10** A Brognara (It) Batik; **11** F Roscioli (It) Asics ast; **12** M Lietti (It) Ceramiche Refin at 52; **13** E Bonetti (It) Asics at 4min 43sec; *14 O Pumar* (Ven) Brescialat st; **15** G Magnusson (Swe) Amore & Vita 6.57. **Leading overall standings: 1** Tonkov 34hr 32min 52sec; **2** L Leblanc (Fr) Polti at 41 secs; **3** I Gotti (It) Saeco at 1min 07sec; **4** R Petito (It) Saeco 1.13, **5** Paluan 1 39; **6** A Noe' (It) Asics 1 43; **7** M Coppolillo (It) Magnificio MG 1.48; **8** P Savoldelli (It) Roslotto 2.40; **9** L Piepoli (It) Ceramiche Refin 2.43; **10** A Shefer (Kaz) Asics 3.08, **11** G Simoni (It) Magnificio MG 3.14; **12** N Miceli (It) AKI 3 50; *13 G Guerini (It) Polti 3 58;* **14** P Ugrumov (Rus) Roslotto 3.59; **15** E Zaina (It) Asics 4.01.

EQUESTRIANISM

LADIES WATERLOO (Blackpool): **Third round:** C Johnson (Blackpool), J Koiher, V Pegg, L Rowley (all Stoke on Trent); Y Heaume (Huddersfield); D Pugh (Telford); M Hedium (Coventry). G Hubbert (Oldham), M Boyle (St Helens), M Jones (Leigh), *M Shaw (Chorley), J* Hill and A McCormick (both Whitworth).

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS: England 0, Scotland 0; Scotland 4 US 2; England 3 US 1.

AEWHA CUP FINAL (Milton Keynes): Hightown 2 Clifton 2 (Hightown won 3-2 on pens) **Veterans finals: 1** Ipswich 12, **2** Wereys 9; **3** Owls 4; **4** Tykes 4; **5** City of Portsmouth 0. **Plate final:** Poynton 4 Driffield 4 (Poynton won 2-0 on pens). **U-15 Cup Final:** Queenswood School 1 Harleston Magpies 1 (Queenswood won 4–1 aps).

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL (Adelaide): Australia 3 Pakistan 2

ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Stanley Cup play-offs Eastern Conference final: Philadelphia 3 New York Rangers 2 (Philadelphia lead series 3–1). **Western Conference final:** Colorado 6 Detroit 0 (Detroit lead series 3–2).

MOTOCROSS

BRITISH GP (Foxhill nr Swindon): **250cc: First leg: 1** S Everts (Bel) Honda; **2** M Bervots (Bel) Honda **3** P Beirer (Gr) Honda **Second heat: 1** Everts; **2** S Tortelli (Fra) Kawasaki; **3**M Bervots. **Overall: 1** Everts, **2** Bervts; **3** Tortelli. **World championship standings: 1** Everts 247; **2** Bervorts 1923 Tortelli 182. **125cc: First leg: 1** A Chiodi (It) Yamaha, **2** C Federici (It Husvarna); **3** A Puzar (It) TM. **Second leg: 1** Chiode, **1** Puzar, **2** Federici, **Overall:** Chiode; **2** Puzar; **3** Federici. **World championship standings: 1** Chiodo 37; **2** Puzar 177; **3** Federici 137.

MOTOR-CYCLING

BRITISH FORMULA ONE SIDECAR CHAMPIONSHIP: First round: 1 Gray/Pointer; **2** Williams/Crow; **3** Hendry/McKenzie. **Second race: 1** Bindley/Biggs; **2** Williams/Crow; **3** Gray/Pointer

MOTOR RACING

WORLD GT CHAMPIONSHIP (Helsinki): **Third-round: 1** J J Lehto/S Soper (Fin/GB) BMW McLaren F1 3hr 31.711sec; **2** R Kelleners/S Ortell (Ger/Fr) Roock Porsche 911 GT1, **3** J Nielsen/T Bscher (Den/Ger) Gulf McLaren F1 GTR; **4** A Gilbert-Scott/P-H Raphanel (GB/Fr) Gulf McLaren F1 GTR, **5** M Martin/A Boldrini (It) Lotus Elise GT1; **6** P Martini/C Pescalori (It) BMS Porsche 911 GT1.

AUTO TRADER RAC TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP (Oulton Park): **Ninth Round: 1** A Menu (Switz) Renault Laguna; **2** J Plato (GB) Renault Laguna, **3** F Biela (Ger) Audi A4, **4** G Tarquini (It) Honda Accord; **5** J Thompson (GB) Honda Accord; **6** K Burt (GB) Volvo S40; **7** P Radisich (NZ) Ford Mondeo, **8** W Hoy (GB) Ford Mondeo, **9** J Bintcliffe (GB) Audi A4; **10** D Leslie (GB) Nissan Primera. **Tenth round: 1** Menu; **2** R Rydell (Swe) Volvo S40; **3** Plato; **4** Tarquini **5** Thompson; **6** Bintcliffe, **7** Burt; **8** Biela; **9** A Reid (GB) Nissan Primera **10** T Harvey (GB) Peugeot 406.

MOTOR RALLYING

RALLY OF ARGENTINA (Cordoba): **World Championship standings: 1** T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi 38pts; **2** C McRae (GB) Subaru 32. **3=** C Sainz (Sp) Ford, P Liatti (It) Subaru 18. **5** K Eriksson (Swe) Subaru 14; **6** A Schwarz (Ger) 11; **7** G Panizzi (Fr) Peugeot 8; **8** R Burns (GB) Mitsubishi 6. **Manufacturers: 1** Subaru 64; **2** Mitsubishi 46; **3** Ford. **Final leg: Final standings: 1** T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi; **2** C McRae (GB) Subaru; **3** K Eriksson (Swe) Subaru; **4** M Gronholm (Fin) Toyota; **5** D Auriol (Fr) Toyota.

WEIGHTLIFTING

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Rijeka, Croatia) **76kg: 1** I Iotov (Bul) snatch 160.0 kg/clean and jerk 195 0 kg/total lift 355.0kg. **2** I Steinhotel (Ger) 157.5/192 5/350.0; **3** R Savcenko (Ukr) 160.0/190.0/350.0. **83kg: 1** M Huster (Ger) 170.0/207.5/377.5; **2** D Sovinc (Tur) 167.5/205.0/372.5; **3** Y Mickovec (Rus) 170.0/200 0/370.0. **91kg: 1** S Bulut (Tur) snatch 180 0 kg/clean and jerk 210.0 kg/total lift 387.0kg; **2** O Caruso (Ger) 175.0/210 0/385.0; **3** O Cumak (Ukr) 172.5/210.0/382.5.

The week's fixtures

TODAY

SOCCER
NATIONWIDE: Division One: Play-off final: Crystal Palace v Sheff Utd (3 0)
RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCH: NZ Academy v Ireland Dev XV (Albany, 8 35am)
RUGBY LEAGUE
STONES SUPER LEAGUE (3 0 unless stated). Castleford v Leeds (3 30). Oldham v Salford (6 0); Paris v London (7 0). St Helens v Wigan (7 30), Warrington v Sheffield. **First Division:** Dewsbury v Wakefield. Hull KR v Featherstone, *Keighley v Workington,* Swinton v Hull; Whitehaven v Huddersfield. **Second Division:** Barrow v Bramley. Doncaster v Prescot; Lancashire Lynx v Rochdale, Leigh v Hunslet; York v Carlisle.
RACING
Cartmel; Chepstow, Fontwell; Hereford, Huntingdon; Leicester; Redcar; Sandown; Uttoxeter; Wetherby

TUESDAY

SOCCER
INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v Wales (8.0)
RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCH: Argentina A v England (7 30).
RUGBY LEAGUE
STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax v Bradford (7 35)
CRICKET
BENSON & HEDGES CUP (One day). **Quarter-finals: Leicester:** Leicestershire v Somerset. **Headingley:** Yorkshire v Northamptonshire. **Canterbury:** Kent v Warwickshire **Chelmsford:** Essex v Surrey.
TETLEY'S CHALLENGE SERIES: Bristol: Gloucestershire v Australia
RACING
Hexham (evening), Leicester; Redcar; Sandown (eve).

WEDNESDAY

SOCCER
EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Three: France U-21 v Finland U-21 (1.15)
EUROPEAN CUP FINAL: Borussia Dortmund v Juventus (7.30).
RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCH: Border v British Lions (2.15 East London).
RACING
Cartmel, Folkestone; Hereford (evening), Newbury (eve); Ripon (eve); Yarmouth

THURSDAY

CRICKET
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (Day one of four): **Ilford:** Essex v Yorkshire. **Cardiff:** Glamorgan v Durham. **Southampton:** Hampshire v Warwickshire. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Lancashire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Northamptonshire **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Kent. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Somerset.
RACING
Brighton; Carlisle, Uttoxeter

FRIDAY

SOCCER
EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group Two: Poland U21 v England U21 (5.0)
RUGBY LEAGUE
STONES SUPER LEAGUE (7.30 unless stated). Leeds v Warrington, London v Sheffield; Wigan v Paris; Oldham v Castleford.
CRICKET
OTHER MATCH: **The Parks:** Oxford University v Sussex.
RACING
Ayr: Bath (evening): Catterick; Stratford (eve); Wolverhampton (eve)
GOLF
PFA SENIOR CLASSIC (Chepstow).

SATURDAY

SOCCER
WORLD CUP: European qualifying: Group Two: Poland v England (7.30 Chorzow)
RUGBY UNION
INTERNATIONAL: Argentina v England (6.30)
TOUR MATCH: Western Province v British Lions (2.15 Cape Tn).
CRICKET
TETLEY'S CHALLENGE SERIES: Derbyshire v Australia (Derby).
RACING
Catterick; Kempton (evening). Lingfield; Market Rasen (eve); Musselburgh (eve). Newmarket; Stratford.

SUNDAY

CRICKET
AXA LIFE LEAGUE (one-day): **Ilford:** Essex v Yorkshire **Pontypridd:** Glamorgan v Durham. **Southampton:** Hampshire v Warwickshire. **Leicester:** Leicestershire v Lancashire. **Lord's:** Middlesex v Northamptonshire. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Kent. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Somerset.

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Racing

O'Brien is king of The Curragh

Young trainer completes Guineas double as Revoque flops. **Graham Rock** reports

AIDAN O'BRIEN sent out his first Classic winner with Classic Park at The Curragh on Saturday and 24 hours later landed the Lexus Irish 2,000 Guineas when Desert King galloped clear of a high-class field to win easily by three lengths.

The winner was ridden by Christy Roche, who had looked unlucky on Strawberry Roan, runner-up in the Airlie/Coolmore Irish 1,000 Guineas. Verglas finished a clear second best with Robert Sangster's Romanov in third.

Revoque started 11-10 favourite and had every chance, disputing the lead two furlongs out, but he faded in the closing stages to finish sixth, and further behind the fourth home, Yalaietanee, than he had in the Greenham.

A disappointed Chapple-Hyam said: "Revoque went there three out and it looked a matter of how far, but he just died a death, he emptied, and Richard Hughes said it was the same with the other horse. The Derby for Revoque looks very unlikely."

O'Brien has dominated the Irish jumping scene in recent years, and from the famous Ballydoyle base which produced so many champions for Vincent O'Brien (no relation), the 27-year-old is surely emerging as a leading player on the international stage. "He has always been a very good horse, but he has just got better and better," he said of yesterday's winner.

Desert King carries the colours of Michael Tabor, who owns the odds-on Derby favourite, Entrepreneur, but the pair will not clash at Epsom.

Desert King will probably be trained for the Budweiser Irish Derby. He has a round action, which suggests he will not be suited ideally by fast ground, and he has the pedigree of a miler, but with O'Brien anything seems possible.

Following Revoque's tame performance, Entrepreneur is now odds-on with all the major bookmakers for the Vodafone Derby at Epsom a week on Saturday.

Michael Stoute's 2,000 Guineas winner is now a best-priced 4-5 with Corals and the Tote. Silver Patriarch is 6-1 (Ladbrokes), Benny the Dip 8-1 (Corals, Hills), and Romanov as high as 25-1 with the Tote; they quote Desert King at 6-1, who would presumably run at Epsom if Entrepreneur were an absentee.

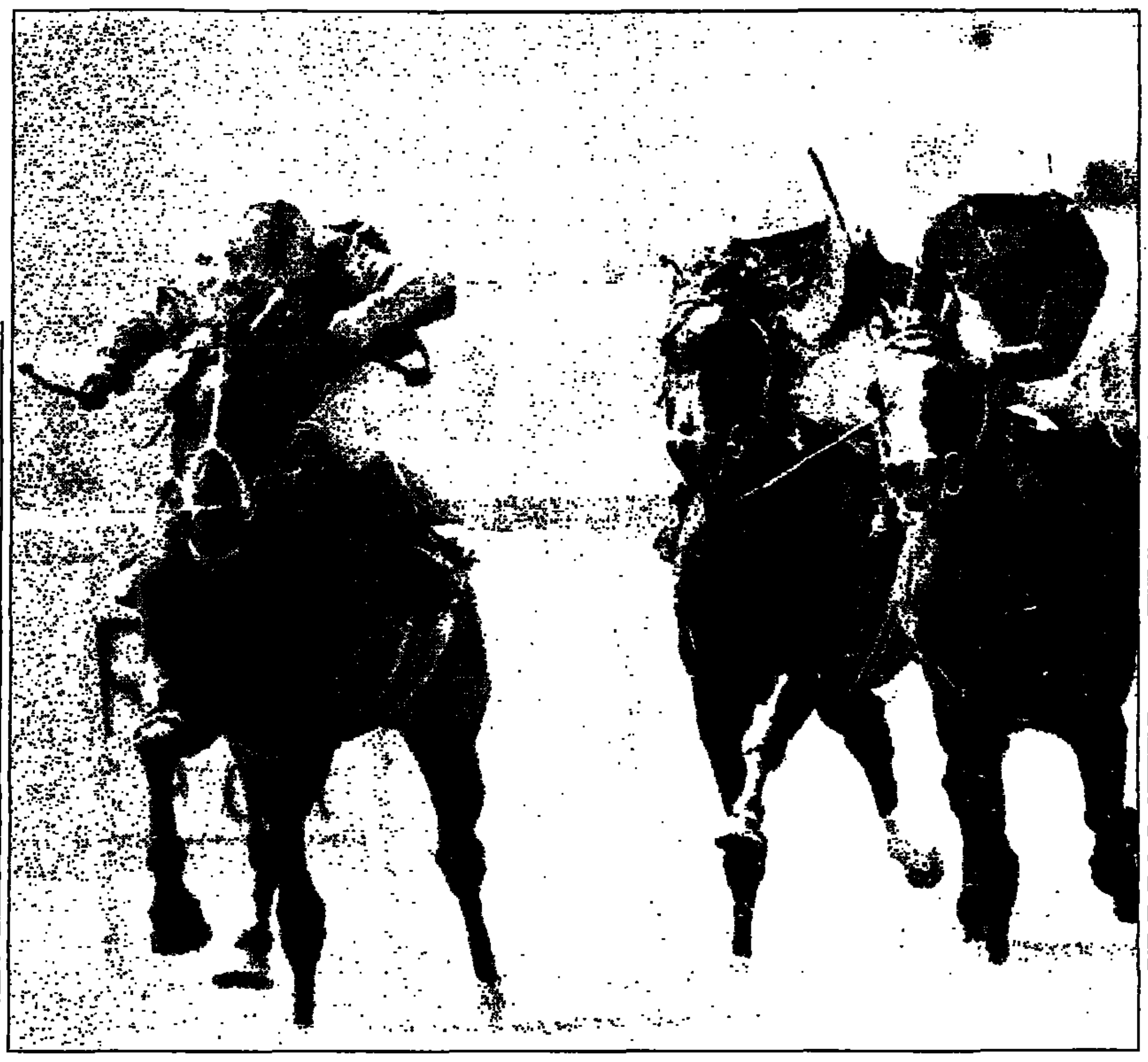
Geoff Wragg's Sasuru notched up his first Group One victory when getting the better of Wixim by a short neck in the Prix d'Ispahan at Longchamp. The winner will run next at Royal Ascot, in either the Prince of Wales's Stakes or the Hardwicke Stakes.

In the Bonusprint Henry II Stakes at Sandown today David Elsworth's Persian Punch (2.35) can take advantage of the 7lb he receives from the Yorkshire Cup winner Celeric.

Both are progressive stayers, but Celeric is best coming late off a strong gallop and he is not certain to enjoy a fast pace today.

Big race result

1, DESERT KING, C Roche 3-1
2, Verglas, W Supple 33-1
3, Romanov R Hughes 11-1
12 ran. 6l, ¾l. 11-10 fav Revoque. Winner trained by Aidan O'Brien.



O'Brien rules okay . . . Desert King strides clear in the Irish 2,000 Guineas PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Banned Fallon to miss Epsom

Graham Rock

KIEREN FALLON will miss Epsom and Royal Ascot following suspensions awarded to Henry Cecil's stable jockey at Doncaster on Saturday and in Rome yesterday.

He was given four days (June 2-5 inclusive) for failing to ride out Highborn at Town Moor. In the Italian Derby he was fined three-million lire (£11,000) and suspended for a further 15 days, which will be added to his original ban.

Riding Ed Dunlop's Musical Dancer, his mount hampered Risiat, who was beginning a forward move in the straight. Musical Dancer, originally fifth, was demoted behind Risiat, who crossed the line in sixth place.

The local stewards blamed Fallon for the incident and the ban means he will miss the ride on Reams Of Verse in the Oaks.

The race provided some compensation for Robert Sangster and Peter-Chapple-Hyam, represented by both the winner, Single Empire, and the third, Panama City.

Sandown with form guide for the televised races

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.05	Plaisir d'Amour	Dancing Drop
2.35	Persian Punch	Celeric
3.05	Farhana	Easycall
3.40	Insatiable	Bold Words
4.10	Folklore	Jilted
4.45	Purchasing Power	Caribbean Star
5.20	Pekay (nap)	Gold Desire

Right-handed oval course of 13 furlongs.
Going: Good. Good to Firm in places on round course. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rated.
Draw: High numbers best in 3.05 and 4.10.
Long distance travellers: 3.40 Hunters Of Brora, 4.45 Rotor Man, J Bethell, N Yorks, 249 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.05 Ya Malak, 5.20 Gold Desire.
Blinkered first time: 4.45 Tabasco Jazz, 5.20 Wot No Fax.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.05 BONUSPHOTO FILLIES' HANDICAP CH4
7f 16yds £6,873 (9 declared)

101 (5) 0/15 Infiaab (28) R Armstrong 4-9-12 — R Hills 81
102 (1) 31313- Dancing Drop (233) R Hannon 3-9-10 — Dane O'Neill ●89
103 (6) 332-03 Zelda Zonk (14) (D) B Meehan 5-9-1 — O Peslier 89
104 (2) 1214- Alpine Time (341) (BF) D Loder 3-8-13 — L Dettori 88
105 (7) 34-630 Arruhan (11) P Walwyn 3-8-8 — R Cochrane 88
106 (8) 24-114 Plaisir d'Amour (30) (D) N Callaghan 3-8-8 — M J Kinane 88
107 (9) -12340 Ellie Rope (18) (D) N Tinkler 5-8-8 — G Carter —
108 (3) 2500-0 Song of Skye (22) T Naughton 3-8-7 — D Holland 78
109 (4) 05-600 Brit Line (11) M Madgwick 5-7-10 — N Varley 86

Betting: 11-4 Dancing Drop, 3-1 Alpine Time, 5-1 Plaisir d'Amour, 13-2 Zelda Zonk, 8-1 Infiaab, Arruhan, Song Of Skye.

FORM GUIDE – **Dancing Drop:** Close up until outpaced from 1f out, 3rd of 7, 4l behind Sarayir at Newmarket 7f Listed, Gd-Fm. **Zelda Zonk:** Disputed lead to 2f out, unable to quicken closing stages, 3rd of 10, 1l behind Gymcrak Flyer at Redcar 7f hcap, Gd. **Alpine Time:** In touch, ridden halfway, weakened final 2f, 4th of 5, 12l behind Rich In Love at Ripon 6f stks, Gd-Fm. **Arruhan:** Missed break, never dangerous, behind Tayseer at York 7f hcap, Gd. **Plaisir d'Amour:** Better for drop in trip to 6f, chased leaders, hung right, no extra, 4th of 19, 2¾l behind Treasure Touch at Newmarket, 3-y-o hcap, Gd-Fm.

2.35 BONUSPRINT HENRY II STAKES CH4
2m 78yds £25,240 (7 declared)

201 (2) 121-41 Celeric (11) (D) D Morley 5-9-3 — L Dettori ●90
202 (6) 012-31 Orchestra Stall (26) (D) J Dunlop 5-9-1 — T Quinn 89
203 (3) 1310-4 Corradini (35) (BF) H Cecil 5-8-12 — K Fallon 87
204 (5) 1432-5 Eva Luna (18) (C) H Cecil 5-8-12 — M J Kinane 86
205 (7) 22-305 Kutta (11) R Armstrong 5-8-12 — R Hills 88
206 (4) 1041-3 Heron Island (28) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-10 — J Reid 88
207 (1) 133-01 Persian Punch (9) D Elsworth 4-8-10 — R Cochrane 88

Betting: 2-1 Celeric, 5-2 Persian Punch, 7-2 Orchestra Stall, 9-1 Corradini, 10-1 Eva Luna, Kutta, 14-1 Heron Island.

FORM GUIDE – **Celeric:** Loves top-of-the-ground. Headway 3f out, sustained run to lead nearing the finish, won at York 1m 6f, Gr 2, Gd, beating Mons a shd, with Kutta (levels), effort when not clear run 2f out, kept on, 5th of 9, 6¾l. **Orchestra Stall:** Improved form, prominent, led over 2f out, not extended, won at Ascot 2m stks, Gd-Fm, beating Wisewoman by 3l. **Corradini:** Found pace too slow when ridden from 5f out, outpaced towards finish, 4th of 6, 6l behind Riachaan at Nottingham 1m 6f stks, Gd. **Eva Luna:** Never on terms with the leaders, 5th of 7, 40l behind Royal Court at Chester 1m 5f, Gr 3, Hvy. **Heron Island:** Stayed on at later stages, 3rd of 7, 4½l behind Strelanez at Longchamp 1m 7f, Gr 3, Gd. **Persian Punch:** Made all, stayed on well, won at Newbury 1m 5f Listed, Gd-Sft, beating Further Flight by 3l.

3.05 TRIPLEPRINT TEMPLE STAKES CH4
5f 6yds £39,115 (10 declared)

301 (1) 140-14 Bolshoi (23) (D) (BF) J Berry 5-9-3 — Emma O'Gorman ★ 87
302 (10) 342-30 Brave Edge (22) (CD) R Hannon 6-9-3 — Dane O'Neill 84
303 (9) 53120- Croft Pool (198) (D) J Glover 6-9-3 — G Carter 88
304 (8) P4-306 Sylva Paradise (15) C Brittain 4-9-3 — B Doyle 80
305 (3) 506-51 Ya Malak (6) (D) D Nicholls 6-9-3 — Alex Greaves 76
306 (4) 112-12 Farhana (11) (D) W Jarvis 4-9-0 — T Quinn 86
307 (2) 33-621 Hever Golf Rose (15) (D) T Naughton 6-9-0 — J Weaver 84
308 (7) 6060-1 Royale Figurine (15) (D) M Fetherston-Godley 6-9-0 — D Holland 83
309 (5) 1214- Aboo Zouz (237) (D) (BF) D Loder 3-8-13 — K Darley 82
310 (6) 14181- Easycall (226) (D) B Meehan 3-8-13 — O Peslier ●90

Betting: 9-4 Farhana, 9-2 Easycall, 5-1 Hever Golf Rose, 6-1 Royale Figurine, 7-1 Aboo Zouz, 15-2 Bolshoi, 14-1 Croft Pool, Sylva Paradise, 16-1 Brave Edge, 25-1 Ya Malak.

FORM GUIDE – **Bolshoi:** Ran much better than final placing suggests after stumbling in Dip, ridden and switched over 1f out, kept on strongly, 4th of 12, 3l behind Deep Finesse at Newmarket 5f, Gr 3, Gd-Fm, with Brave Edge (levels), never dangerous, disappointing 11th of 12. **Hever Golf Rose:** Ran on well, won at Longchamp 5f, Gr 3, Gd-Sft, beating Titus Livius by a hd. **Royale Figurine:** Hard ridden to lead over 1f out, ran on well, won at Bath 6f, Listed, Gd-Sft beating Aesthesia by 3l. **Easycall:** In touch, led 2f out, ran on gamely, won at Ascot 5f, Gr 3, Gd-Sft, beating Check The Band by 1½l.

3.40 DOUBLEPRINT WHITSUN CUP RATED HANDICAP CH4
1m 14yds £15,419 (18 declared)

401 (11) 10404- Night City (J157) (D) Lady Herries 6-9-8 — Paul Eddery 88
402 (16) 0300-0 General Academy (10) P Kelleway 4-9-6 — S Sanders 85
403 (14) 0203-0 Kayvee (28) (D) Mrs A Perrett 8-9-5 — A Clark 84
404 (7) 1/32-3 Insatiable (12) M Stoute 4-9-4 — M J Kinane 85
405 (10) 8220-1 Hal's Pal (44) (D) D Loder 4-9-4 — K Darley ★ 89
406 (3) 6-4102 Kuala Lipis (28) (D) P Cole 4-9-3 — T Quinn 86
407 (8) P1006- Aunty Jane (291) (D) J Dunlop 4-9-3 — J Reid 86
408 (6) 00-500 Concer Un (12) (CD) S C Williams 5-9-3 — G Carter 86
409 (8) 023012 Major Change (11) (C) (D) Gay Kelleway 5-9-2 — J Weaver 83
410 (17) 110-15 Bold Words (36) (D) E Dunlop 3-9-0 — K Fallon ●90
411 (1) 0-0104 Hunters Of Brora (24) (D) J Bethell 7-9-0 — D Holland 87
412 (15) 240-41 Welton Arsenal (18) K Bishop 5-9-0 — R Hills 88
413 (18) /114-0 Samara (31) (D) J Dunlop 4-8-13 — O Peslier 87
414 (5) 3313-0 Crampton Hill (28) (D) N Graham 5-8-12 — L Dettori 86
415 (13) 04500- Lomberto (228) (C) V Soane 4-8-9 — R Cochrane 87
416 (12) 345-15 Another Time (25) (D) (BF) S Woods 5-8-8 — D Biggs 86
417 (2) 50-050 Stone Ridge (20) (D) R Hannon 5-8-8 — Dane O'Neill 89
418 (4) 6-0052 Amber Fort (11) (BF) D Elsworth 4-8-8 — P P Murphy (5) ★ 76

Betting: 4-1 Insatiable, 6-1 Hal's Pal, 9-1 Bold Words, Samara, 10-1 Crampton Hill, Kuala Lipis, Major Change, 12-1 Hunters Of Brora, Welton Arsenal, 14-1 Another Time, Concer Un, 20-1 Night City, 22-1 Stone Ridge, 25-1 Aunty Jane, Kayvee, 40-1 Amber Fort, General Academy, 66-1 Lomberto.

FORM GUIDE – **Kayvee:** Prominent to 2f out, soon beaten, behind Tregaron at Ascot 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. **Insatiable:** Headway over 2f out, ridden and no extra, 3rd of 14, 4l behind Centre Stalls at York 1m hcap, Gd, with Concer Un (levels), never troubled leaders, 8th of 14, btn 10l. **Hal's Pal:** Led halfway, headed final furlong, led again on post, won at W'hampton (a-w) 1m hcap, beating New Century by a hd. **Kuala Lipis:** Led over 2f out to 1f out, rallied near finish, 2nd of 16, nk behind Break The Rules at Chester 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Sft, with Stone Ridge (rec 7lb), best with cut in the ground, ridden halfway, never nearer, 8th of 16. **Major Change:** Stayed on at one pace, 2nd of 12, 4l behind Give Me A Ring at York 1m 2f hcap, Gd. **Bold Words:** Led 4f out to 2f out, faded closing stages, 5th of 7, 9l behind Fahris at Newmarket 1m 1f, Listed, Gd-Fm. **Hunters Of Brora:** Outpaced early, ran on well towards the finish, 4th of 7, 13l behind Balalaika at Newmarket 1m 1f, Listed, Gd-Fm. **Samara:** Weakened quickly 4f out, last of 14, 14l behind Star Talent at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd. **Crampton Hill:** Never on terms with the leaders, 16th of 25, 15l behind Tregaron at Ascot 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. **Another Time:** Headway 2f out, no extra, 5th of 8, 8l behind The Dilettanti at Newmarket 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Fm.

4.10 EBF MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
5f 6yds £3,550 (10 declared)

501 (10) Ffestiniog P Cole 8-11 — T Quinn —
502 (8) Folklore D Loder 8-11 — L Dettori —
503 (7) Isabella T Keddy 8-11 — D Holland —
504 (3) 5 Jay Gee (14) B Margarson 8-11 — G Carter 78
505 (5) 2 Jilted (7) R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill ●90
506 (9) 23 Klicora (20) C Dwyer 8-11 — K Fallon 86
507 (6) Ratiyya B Hanbury 8-11 — R Hills —
508 (4) 0 Really Done It Now (21) K Burke 8-11 — Paul Eddery —
509 (1) Seda W Haw 8-11 — J Reid —
510 (2) 04 Summer Bay Blues (17) C Murray 8-11 — J Weaver —

Betting: 5-2 Folklore, 7-2 Jilted, 9-2 Ffestiniog, Klicora, 8-1 Ratiyya, Seda, 16-1 Jay Gee.

4.45 FAMILY DAY OUT HANDICAP 3YO
7f 16yds £3,518 (15 declared)

601 (2) 3160-6 Orontes (16) (D) R Hannon 9-7 — Dane O'Neill 88
602 (3) 3426-0 Caribbean Star (22) M Stoute 9-5 — J Reid ●90
603 (1) 61-3 Supreme Maimoon (169) (D) M Polglase 9-3 — T G McLaughlin 87
604 (4) -52240 Plan For Profit (41) M Johnston 9-3 — J Weaver 85
605 (6) 333 Shadoof (8) W Muir 9-3 — K Fallon 87
606 (7) 3520 Tabasco Jazz (9) (BF) B Meehan 8-12 — M J Kinane ★ 87
607 (10) 6-1201 Purchasing Power (10) (D) N Callaghan 8-12 — L Dettori 89
608 (13) 120-00 Pasaffera (22) J Dunlop 8-12 — K Darley 89
609 (5) 6014-0 Savage (11) (D) R Hannon 8-11 — W J O'Connor 88
610 (11) 1005-0 Cherokee Flight (21) S Mellor 8-8 — Paul Eddery 88
611 (9) 000-50 Rotor Man (36) J Bethell 8-6 — D Holland 78
612 (12) 030-00 Salliembanco (20) R Akehurst 8-5 — S Sanders 79
613 (14) 60-035 Signs And Wonders (7) C Cyzer 8-5 — T Quinn 86
614 (8) 560-00 Lladoc's Lad (41) J Jenkins 8-0 — G Carter 86
615 (15) 4-1 Forget To Remindme (11) (D) J S Moore 7-10 — N Varley 86

Betting: 7-2 Purchasing Power, 5-1 Tabasco Jazz, 8-1 Caribbean Star, 10-1 Plan For Profit, Shadoof, Forget To Remindme, 12-1 Orontes, Pasaffera, Salliembanco.

5.20 LADBROKE HANDICAP
1m 2f 7yds £3,664 (17 declared)

1 (15) 000-00 Wot No Fax (20) (D) B Meehan 4-10-0 — M J Kinane ★ 88
2 (10) 0100- Rivers Magic (J123) J Bridger 4-9-10 — R Cochrane 87
3 (12) 321-0 Angel Chimes (26) J Banks 4-9-10 — J Stack 85
4 (3) 643-0 Intulation (8) Lady Herries 4-9-7 — Paul Eddery 85
5 (13) 00330- Mawared (216) J Dunlop 4-9-6 — R Hills 82
6 (9) 21004- Mattimeo (243) (D) (BF) A Jarvis 4-9-5 — W J O'Connor 83
7 (6) 10-502 Zidac (14) (D) P Makin 5-9-5 — S Sanders 83
8 (4) 00010- Typhoon Eight (J191) R Armstrong 5-9-4 — G Carter 83
9 (3) 0063-0 Faha (8) R Akehurst 5-8-4 — T Quinn 83
10 (16) 53500/ Desert Time (616) C Horgan 7-8-2 — D Holland 78
11 (8) 66-000 Zermatt (21) (D) M Usher 7-8-12 — J Reid 83
12 (14) 0504-0 Clouds Hill (21) R Hannon 4-8-12 — Dane O'Neill 78
13 (17) 00-500 Balance Of Power (11) S Dow 5-8-10 — O Peslier 75
14 (7) 240-03 Pekay (9) M Johnston 4-8-8 — J Weaver 85
15 (11) 600033 Golden Touch (3) (D) D Cosgrove 5-8-6 — D Biggs 85
16 (5) 04104- Nordansk (J201) M Madgwick 8-8-1 — N Varley 82
17 (1) 6-0351 Gold Desire (5) (6lb ex) (C) (D) M Brittain 7-7-11 — J Lowe ●90

Betting: 6-1 Gold Desire, 13-2 Faha, 8-1 Intulation, Mawared, Zidac, Pekay, 10-1 Mattimeo, Golden Touch.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	55	248	22.2	-8.47	R Hannon	35	277	12.6	-38.41
L Dettori	38	189	20.1	+11.20	J L Dunlop	20	99	20.2	-3.08
T Quinn	24	185	13	-43.94	M R Stoute	20	127	15.7	-33.38
J Reid	24	197	12.2	-78.88	H R A Cecil	13	75	17.3	-33.36
W R Swinburn	14	110	12.7	-26.27	R Akehurst	12	105	11.4	-37.00
M Hills	12	109	11	-15.55	M Johnston	10	46	21.7	+36.58
					J Berry	9	41	22.7	+2.29

Hereford National Hunt card

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.30	Song Of The Sword	Song Of The Sword
3.00	Awestruck	Look In The Mirror
3.30	Mythical Approach	Mythical Approach
4.00	Kinnescash	Kinnescash
4.35	The Rum Mariner	No Joker
5.05	Turrill House	Turrill House

Right-handed 1m 4f circuit with easy bends apart from the sharp home turn and stiffish fences.
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: 3.00 Mardood, 4.00 Eurolink The Rebel, S Clark, North Yorkshire, 184 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.00 Provence, Kano Warrior. F, Flat.

2.30 MADLEY NOVICES' HURDLE
2m 1f £2,514 (9 declared)

1 11 Song Of The Sword (12) (CD) J Old 4-11-7 — M A Fitzgerald
2 223044 Fraser Carey (21) T George 5-11-6 — Mr R Thornton (3) ★
3 562P Blowing Rock (16) Miss H Knight 5-11-0 — J Culloty
4 000 Just Because (9) B E Jones 5-11-0 — Mr B S Jones
5 0-08P Ludo's Orchestra (21) M Campion 6-11-0 — M Richards
6 0740- Sugar de Montbray (459) R Brotherton 7-11-0 — L Harvey
7 PP/6-0 Sallow Glen (13) Dr P Pritchard 11-11-0 — Dr P Pritchard
8 0-00 Yonder Star (98) G R Smith 5-11-0 — R Greene
9 Amour Allayeel (F48) D Lloyd 4-10-9 — Sophie Mitchell (3)

Betting: 4-9 Song Of The Sword, 6-1 Blowing Rock, 8-1 Fraser Carey, 25-1 Just Because, Ludo's Orchestra.

3.00 ORCOP SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
3m 2f £2,038 (18 declared)

1 5-31FF Jasmyallan (232) P Bowen 8-12-0 — M A Fitzgerald
2 0333P3 Tiger Claw (16) (D) A Hobbs 11-10-10 — R Greene
3 0P1460 Gerrybelle (21) D Williams 6-10-8 — Mr S Durack (7)
4 50006P Whiteborne (10) C Egerton 7-10-5 — Mr R Thornton (3) ★
5 006P42 Look In The Mirror (12) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-5 — C Llewellyn
6 -43064 Vacount Tully (28) C Jackson 13-10-5 — Miss S Jackson
7 -PP023 Khazari (10) R Brotherton 9-10-3 — L Harvey
8 -P-P00 Kano Warrior (37) B Preece 10-10-2 — V Slattery ★
9 465423 Song For Jess (31) F Jordan 4-10-0 — L Aspell (3)
10 350641 Awestruck (31) (D) B Preece 7-10-0 — J Mogford (7) ★
11 0-6030 Bayford Prince (16) J A Ewer 9-10-0 — Sophie Mitchell (3)
12 250RP5 Arrange A Game (12) (D) Miss J Bower 10-10-0 — M Handley (7)
13 P-2550 Kanlan (F15) (BF) P Hayward 9-10-0 — I Lawrence
14 502444 Pandora's Prize (21) T Wall 11-10-0 — J Culloty
15 0-0580 Provence (10) A Carroll 10-10-0 — M Richards ★
16 000302 Mardood (12) S Clark 12-10-0 — Miss B Clark (7)
17 3PP632 Up The Tempo (4) P Farrell 8-10-0 — D Burrows (5)
18 R0P-3 Squealing Jeanie (24) J Bradley 8-10-0 — K Gaule

Betting: 11-2 Awestruck, 13-2 Look In The Mirror, 10-1 Tiger Claw, Whiteborne, Vacount Tully, Khazari, Mardood.

3.30 CRASWELL NOVICES' CHASE
2m 3f £2,905 (6 declared)

1 4-2531 Mythical Approach (10) D Nicholson 7-11-6 — Mr R Thornton (3)
2 /55-15 Sorciere (35) (D) G Balding 8-11-1 — B Clifford
3 R0P-54 Chan The Man (51) D Burchell 6-11-0 — Guy Lewis (3)
4 2-4U3U Diamond Light (23) V Bishop 10-11-0 — Mr S Lloyd
5 PP-430 Run With Joy (6) A Hobbs 6-11-0 — R Greene
6 -P61F3 Wessham (21) P Murphy 7-10-9 — L Aspell (3)

Betting: 4-7 Mythical Approach, 5-1 Sorciere, 8-1 Diamond Light, 10-1 Run With Joy, Wessham.

4.00 MICHAELCHURCH HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 3f 110yds £2,864 (6 declared)

1 231123 Barakshan (18) Miss H Knight 5-11-10 — J Culloty
2 211413 Kinnescash (8) (BF) P Bowen 4-11-6 — M A Fitzgerald
3 2113F3 Severn Gale (17) J Allen 7-11-1 — Mr R Thornton (3)
4 0220P2 Desert Force (16) (D) G Fierro 8-10-7 — L Aspell (3) ★
5 P44010 Eurolink The Rebel (24) S Clark 5-10-7 — Miss B Clark (7)
6 /5232F Polish Rider (15) B Llewellyn 9-10-1 — C Llewellyn

Betting: 9-4 Barakshan, 5-2 Kinnescash, 4-1 Desert Force, 5-1 Severn Gale, 8-1 Eurolink The Rebel.

4.35 CLIVE MAIDEN HUNTERS' CHASE (Amateurs)
3m 1f 110yds £1,160 (15 declared)

1 -8P111 Andalucian Sun (26) A Witcomb 9-12-3 — P G Moloney (7)
2 142241 Asjabi (15) Miss M Bragg 12-12-3 — S Malcolm (7)
3 22513P Ann's Ambition (16) Mrs C Hussey 10-12-3 — M Frith (7)
4 U2121U Corn Exchange (65) D Duggan 9-12-3 — M Rimell (3)
5 321158 Indian Knight (21) C Green 12-12-3 — E James (7)
6 3P1212 Link Copper (28) Mrs E Taplin 8-12-3 — R Treloggen (3)
7 263526 Lurriga Glitter (28) R Smith 9-12-3 — B Foot (5) ★
8 U44314 Majestic Ride (15) R Woods 13-12-3 — R Armson (7)
9 -U52P2 No Joker (10) N Goatee 8-12-3 — P Scott (7)
10 13-PP2 Prime Course (16) Mrs A Farrant 8-12-3 — P Bull (7)
11 P40P23 Tactrader (10) Miss T Blazey 11-12-3 — T Blazey (7)
12 P22U52 The Rum Mariner (16) Mrs J Skelton 10-12-3 — D S Jones (7)
13 6P/4 Tommys Webb (84) C Nixon 9-12-3 — L Lay (7)
14 U8F-64 Watchit Lad (8) Mrs A Price 7-12-3 — M P Jones (7)
15 2-P104 [illegible] (16) Mrs J Phelps 8-11-12 — J Trice-Rolph (5)

Betting: 11-2 Asjabi, Link Copper, 8-1 Andalucian Sun, No Joker, The Rum Mariner, 10-1 Corn Exchange, Indian Knight, Lurriga Glitter, Tactrader.

5.05 CAREY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 3f 110yds £2,472 (15 declared)

1 FP21 Magical Blues (23) (C) Miss A Embiricos 5-11-10 — K Gaule
2 20FP23 Slew To Speak (17) Miss H Knight 5-11-5 — J Culloty
3 005222 Starling Fellow (14) (BF) D Williams 6-11-0 — Mr S Durack (7) ★
4 0PU-51 Turrill House (29) (C) W Musson 5-10-12 — M Richards
5 2635U0 Colwall (19) Miss P Whittle 6-10-11 — M A Fitzgerald
6 54-003 Admiral Bruny (28) N Gaselee 6-10-9 — C Llewellyn
7 5/002 Callermine (10) H Day 8-10-7 — Sophie Mitchell (3)
8 323233 Mr Poppleton (18) R Brotherton 8-10-6 — L Harvey
9 00531 Tailwalo (12) (C) M R Bosley 4-10-5 — I Lawrence ★
10 P0-014 Little Court (320) E Bevan 6-10-0 — V Slattery
11 0-0P24 Parisian (73) J Bennett 12-10-0 — A Lucas (7)
12 -F0542 Lyphard's Fable (5) T George 8-10-0 — Mr R Thornton (3)
13 P0/3 Flash Chick (21) T Morton 8-10-0 — J Mogford (7)
14 PP-P30 Irish Dominion (13) A Hobbs 7-10-0 — D Burrows (5)
15 PP/000 Sober Island (12) Mrs D Thomas 8-10-0 — Guy Lewis (3)

Betting: 9-2 Turrill House, 11-2 Magical Blues, 7-1 Slew To Speak, Tailwalo, 8-1 Starling Fellow, Mr Poppleton, 10-1 Lyphard's Fable.

Leicester

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.20	Sapphire Ring	Chrysalis
2.55	Persian Dawn	Action Jackson
3.25	Carburton	Wakeel
3.55	Occam	Henry's Mother
4.25	Sun In The Morning	Lesham
4.55	Haydown	Jump The Lights
5.25	Ed's Folly	Mr Bergerac

Right-handed, 1¾ mile track with a 4½ furlong run-in. There is a straight.
Going: Good, Good to Firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Middle to high numbers favoured up to one mile.
Long distance travellers: 4.55 Prove The Point, 5.25 Macgillycuddy, Mrs N Dutfield, Devon, 185 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.55 Polar Refrain.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.20 LIONESS MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO
5f 218yds £3,444 (11 declared)

1 (9) Bobbydazzle Dr J Scargill 8-11 — G Bardwell
2 (10) 33 Chrysalis (20) P Cole 8-11 — J Bosley (7)
3 (7) 42 Demolition Jo (18) P Evans 8-11 — D R McCabe
4 (3) 4 First Dance (21) R Hannon 8-11 — R Perham
5 (1) Flow By J Dunlop 8-11 — M Rimmer
6 (6) Ghorapani Mrs N Macauley 8-11 — S Webster
7 (5) Katie's Cracker M Channon 8-11 — R Painter
8 (4) Latin Nexus P Cole 8-11 — C Rutter
9 (11) 0 Miss Muffett (8) P Mooney 8-11 — P Fitzsimons (7)
10 (8) Mrs Middle N Callaghan 8-11 — S Drowne
11 (2) Sapphire Ring R Charlton 8-11 — T Sprake

Betting: 4-1 Chrysalis, First Dance, 13-2 Demolition Jo, Latin Nexus, Sapphire Ring, 7-1 Flow By, 8-1 Mrs Middle.

2.55 ANSTEY SELLING HANDICAP
1m 1f 218yds £3,036 (19 declared)

1 (12) 00-022 Action Jackson (8) (D) (BF) B McMath 5-9-10 — G Bardwell
2 (15) 60050- Araboybill (196) (D) J Neville 6-9-9 — S Drowne ★
3 (2) 200-06 Dandster (21) P Evans 5-9-9 — A Bond (7)
4 (7) 0-0030 River Run (3) (D) R Hollinshead 5-9-8 — F Lynch (3)
5 (1) 00300- Northern Grey (J23) Dr J Scargill 5-9-6 — G Griffiths (3)
6 (5) 444030 Arzani (12) (D) D Cosgrove 6-9-6 — M Rimmer
7 (16) 611060 Captain's Day (9) (C) (D) H Collingridge 5-9-4 — R Mullen (5)
8 (3) 304-2 Sidney The Kidney (48) M Ryan 3-9-2 — T E Durcan (5)
9 (18) 00000- Persian Dawn (J18) R Phillips 4-9-1 — R Perham
10 (14) 1000-0 Speedy Snaps Pride (94) P Cundell 5-9-1 — G Faulkner (5)
11 (4) 66-000 Polar Refrain (15) J Norton 4-9-0 — K Sked (7) ★
12 (11) 00240- Rock The Barney (181) (CD) M Usher 8-9-0 — D R McCabe
13 (10) 0002-3 Acquittal (3) A Streeter 5-8-13 — T Sprake ★
14 (9) 004-64 My Handsome Prince (8) P Bevan 5-8-11 — M Carlisle
15 (19) 60-606 Bowling Flame (20) R Flower 4-8-11 — Martin Dwyer (3) ★
16 (13) 650-40 Tauten (J117) M Usher 7-8-10 — J Marshall (5)
17 (6) 000-06 Blue Jumbo (107) W Musson 4-8-10 — M Hills
18 (8) 000-00 Our Tom (14) J Wharton 5-8-9 — F Norton ★
19 (17) -60644 Arboreal (7) Mrs L Stubbs 3-8-8 — P Roberts (5)

Betting: 5-1 Action Jackson, Sidney The Kidney, 7-1 Captain's Day, 8-1 Arzani, Rock The Barney, Acquittal, 10-1 River Run.

3.25 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP
1m 8yds £5,481 (11 declared)

1 (9) 65/6-4 Ibis (94) (BF) G Wragg 5-10-0 — G Milligan (5)
2 (1) 6-6040 Iamus (21) (D) T Barron 4-9-11 — M Hills
3 (7) 00-003 Wakeel (8) (D) S Dow 5-9-6 — R Perham
4 (3) 116-00 Q Factor (8) (D) D Haydn Jones 5-9-6 — G Faulkner (5)
5 (6) 36-105 Artful Dane (17) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 5-9-5 — S Drowne ★
6 (10) 31-40 Noble Dane (13) (D) P Harris 3-8-10 — G Bardwell
7 (4) 0-0000 Carburton (28) J Glover 4-8-8 — C Rutter
8 (8) 0-0000 Thorbes (9) (D) B Millman 4-8-7 — M Rimmer
9 (5) 20-110 Sweet Wilhelmina (8) (D) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-3 — Aimee Cook (5)
10 (11) 16-435 Master M-E-N (15) (D) N Babbage 5-8-2 — T Sprake ★
11 (2) 021402 Broughton's Pride (22) (D) J Eyre 6-7-10 — D Wright

Betting: 4-1 Ibis, 11-2 Wakeel, 13-2 Sweet Wilhelmina, Broughton's Pride, 8-1 Iamus, Q Factor, Artful Dane, Master M-E-N.

3.55 MARKET BOSWORTH MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 8yds £2,637 (10 declared)

1 (3) 34 Farley Mount (52) Lord Huntingdon 9-0 — Aimee Cook (5)
2 (8) 00 Flying Esprit (14) G Margarson 9-0 — T E Durcan (5)
3 (6) Lakota Brave C Allen 9-0 — Martin Dwyer (3)
4 (1) 22-233 Mr Paradise (7) T Naughton 9-0 — D R McCabe
5 (5) 4-0 Occam (48) G Wragg 9-0 — M Hills
6 (7) 0 Strillo (28) N Babbage 9-0 — T Sprake
7 (4) 3 Henry's Mother (21) M Channon 8-9 — R Perham
8 (9) Pot of Tea A Streeter 8-9 — J Bramhill (5)
9 (2) 05 Top Jem (27) M Ryan 8-9 — G Bardwell
10 (10) 32 Twin Time (7) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9 — S Drowne

Betting: 2-1 Henry's Mother, 7-2 Occam, 5-1 Twin Time, 11-2 Mr Paradise, 8-1 Farley Mount, Top Jem.

4.25 LOUGHBOROUGH CLAIMING STAKES 2YO
5f 2yds £2,553 (9 declared)

1 (7) 1 Lesham (34) (D) N Callaghan 8-13 — S Drowne
2 (5) 05 Sun In The Morning (31) B Meehan 8-12 — M Hills
3 (6) 0 Docklands Dispatch (9) N Tinkler 8-9 — G Bardwell
4 (4) 4 Sandy Shore (56) J Wharton 8-8 — F Norton
5 (1) 0 Miss Equal (15) M Pipe 8-4 — Martin Dwyer (3)
6 (3) Deri Fach B Palling 8-2 — T Sprake
7 (8) 4 Fleur-de-Lys (20) W Musson 8-0 — R Mullen (5)
8 (2) 005 Hanerra (6) M Meade 7-12 — J Bramhill (5)
9 (9) 002 Swift Time (20) M R Bosley 7-12 — C Rutter

Betting: 9-4 Sun In The Morning, 7-2 Lesham, 6-1 Fleur-De-Lys, Swift Time, 7-1 Deri Fach, 10-1 Sandy Shore, 14-1 Hanerra.

4.55 TIGERS APPRENTICES' HANDICAP
1m 3f 183yds £2,642 (16 declared)

1 (11) 4-0030 Jump The Lights (14) (D) S Woods 4-9-11 — C Webb (3)
2 (5) 600 Leatherneck (16) P Mooney 4-9-10 — P Fitzsimons (5)
3 (13) 6600-0 Spring Campaign (8) M Pipe 4-9-9 — A Eddery
4 (2) 112/05 Nomax Lad (11) (D) M Meade 9-9-8 — G Milligan ★
5 (12) 31/321 Kinzel (8) T Donnelly 7-8-7 — K Sked
6 (9) 62343/ Schnozzle (J16) K Bridgwater 6-8-4 — T Siddall (5)
7 (8) 004-21 Dauphin (21) (D) W Musson 4-8-2 — P Bradley (5)
8 (3) 0664 Persian Sunset (9) Miss J Bower 5-8-11 — S Hansen (5)
9 (10) 245355 Nawaji (12) W Muir 4-8-10 — J Wilkinson (3)
10 (1) 0/00-0 Prove The Point (44) Mrs P Dutfield 4-8-8 — Aimee Cook
11 (4) 0060-0 Spirit Flyer (3) M Usher 4-8-8 — R Brisland (5)
12 (16) /0450- Haydown (J12) M R Bosley 5-8-4 — J Bosley (7)
13 (7) 000-00 Executive Officer (84) R Flower 4-8-0 — T Field (5)
14 (6) 080/30 Evaporate (14) M Heaton-Ellis 5-7-11 — J Fowle (5)
15 (15) 050060 May King Mayhem (10) Mrs A King 4-7-10 — R Weston (5)
16 (14) 0200-0 Tocco Jewel (8) (C) M Ryan 7-7-10 — G Mernagh (5)

Betting: 11-4 Kinzel, 3-1 Dauphin, 10-1 Jump The Lights, Spring Campaign, Nawaji, May King Mayhem, 14-1 Leatherneck, Nomax Lad, Schnozzle.

5.25 GROBY HANDICAP
5f 218yds £3,665 (10 declared)

1 (5) 00-000 Mr Bergerac (23) (CD) B Palling 6-9-10 — T Sprake
2 (7) 00-203 Lunar Mist (18) (D) M Meade 4-9-6 — F Norton
3 (8) /6600- Celandine (350) (D) A Turnell 4-9-0 — M Hills
4 (2) 230-04 White Settler (11) R Hodges 4-8-12 — S Drowne
5 (10) 10-040 Bowlers Boy (8) (D) J J Quinn 4-8-10 — M Rimmer
6 (6) 00000- Macgillycuddy (218) (D) Mrs P Dutfield 8-8-8 — Aimee Cook (5)
7 (4) 10000- Faith Alone (181) (D) C Wall 4-8-6 — N Carlisle
8 (3) 5000-0 Baldrey Park (31) (D) Mrs A King 4-7-12 — A Garth
9 (9) 0-4045 Petraco (17) (CD) R Smith 9-7-12 — J Bramhill (5)
10 (1) 60-030 Ed's Folly (9) S Dow 4-7-10 — A Daly (5)

Betting: 11-4 Lunar Mist, 7-2 Mr Bergerac, 11-2 White Settler, Ed's Folly, 13-2 Bowlers Boy, 7-1 Faith Alone, 8-1 Petraco.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	41	164	25	-2.04	R Hannon	28	164	17.1	+61.35
L Dettori	30	149	20.1	+1.18	J L Dunlop	24	122	19.7	+2.46
J Weaver	17	83	20.5	+84.75	M J Ryan	13	92	14.1	+47.83
T Quinn	16	141	11.3	-28.00	P F I Cole	13	106	12.3	-32.93
J Reid	14	94	14.9	-23.67	R Hollinshead	10	123	8.13	-51.50
G Carter	12	102	11.8	-23.87	Mrs N Macauley	8	69	11.6	+11.00
					B Palling	7	57	12.3	+5.25

Redcar

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.15	Angel Hill	Angel Hill
2.45	Super Benz	Super Benz
3.15	Cimmerian	Krosno
3.45	Najm Mubeen	Billy Bushwacker
4.15	Prince Of Parkes	Prince Of Parkes
4.50	Domappel	Domappel

Left-handed track of 1¾ miles with a five furlong run-in and straight mile.
Going: Good to firm. Good in places. ★ Denotes blinkers
Draw: Middle to high numbers best in sprints.
Long distance travellers: Impala (2.45) W Turner, Somerset, 306 miles; Tippitt Boy (2.15) K McAuliffe, Tailwind (4.15) W Muir, Berks 257 miles; Keepsake (3.15) & Remaadi Sun (3.45), M Usher, Oxon, 250 miles; Romios (3.45) P Cole, Oxon 249 miles; Champagne Prince (3.45) & Dashing Invader (4.50) P Harris, Oxon, 236 miles. All horses trained at Newmarket by A Stewart, H Cecil, J W Payne, M Bell, M Tompkins, Mrs J Cecil & S C Williams, 208 miles.
Seven day winners: 2.15 Sandside.
Blinkered first time: 2.15 Snappy Times, 3.15 Beau Roberto.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps

2.15 YARM NOVICE AUCTION STAKES 2YO
5f £3,015 (12 declared)

1 (5) 4 King of Dance (14) B Rothwell 8-12 — M Fenton
2 (9) 30 Tippitt Boy (48) K McAuliffe 8-12 — J Fortune
3 (11) Allmaites D Nicholls 8-8 — Iona Wands (5)
4 (8) 0 Cumbrian Cadet (9) T Easterby 8-8 — J Carroll
5 (12) 41 Sandside (7) (D) J Berry 8-8 — P Fessey (5)
6 (4) 5 Snappy Times (42) M Dods 8-8 — C Teague (3) ★
7 (10) 04 Bolero Kid (18) M W Easterby 8-4 — T Lucas
8 (6) 1 Angel Hill (21) (D) T Barron 8-3 — L Charnock
9 (1) Jacobina T Barron 8-3 — R Lappin
10 (7) Behind The Veil Mrs M Reveley 7-13 — T Williams
11 (3) 6 Moy (21) M Brittain 7-13 — J Quinn
12 (2) 5 Patricia Olive (21) M Tompkins 7-13 — M Henry (3)

Betting: 4-1 Sandside, Angel Hill, 7-1 Patricia Olive, 8-1 King Of Dance, Tippitt Boy, Bolero Kid, 12-1 Cumbrian Cadet, Snappy Times, Jacobina, Behind The Veil.

2.45 BANK HOLIDAY SELLING STAKES
7f £2,408 (10 declared)

1 (10) 610-00 Densben (18) (C) D Smith 13-9-7 — M Roberts
2 (4) 0 Frogal (18) B Murray 4-9-7 — V Halliday
3 (5) 00- Hotcake (261) Miss S Hall 4-9-7 — M Henry (3)
4 (1) 00-000 Oriel Lad (7) (D) Emico Incisa 4-9-7 — Kim Tinkler ★
5 (9) 1110-3 Super Benz (18) (CD) (BF) J Eyre 11-9-7 — D Pears (3)
6 (8) 6200- That Old Feeling (J72) D Chapman 5-9-7 — A Culhane
7 (2) 400-01 Diapol Diamond (25) (CD) G Oldroyd 4-9-5 — J Carroll
8 (3) 040200 Serape (18) Mrs L Stubbs 4-9-2 — W Ryan
9 (7) 4250-6 Impala (11) W G M Turner 3-8-10 — D McGaffin (7)
10 (6) Sun Fairy J Glover 3-8-5 — L Charnock

Betting: 9-4 Super Benz, 11-4 Diapol Diamond, 7-1 Densben, 10-1 Hotcake, Impala, Sun Fairy, 14-1 Frogal, Oriel Lad, That Old Feeling, Serape.

3.15 VAUX SAMSON HANDICAP 3YO
1m 3f £5,706 (11 declared)

1 (9) 006-05 Fantail (21) M Tompkins 9-7 — M Henry (3)
2 (3) 600-5 Kuello (18) J W Payne 9-6 — W Ryan
3 (6) 052122 Krosno (14) (BF) S C Williams 9-5 — J Carroll
4 (1) 0-0600 Hoh Flyer (14) M Bell 9-3 — M Fenton
5 (8) 55-035 Madison Welcome (21) Mrs J Ramsden 9-3 — J Fortune
6 (11) 0-060 Quezon City (14) M Camacho 8-8 — L Charnock
7 (10) 060-00 Beau Roberto (17) M Johnston 8-8 — J Fanning ★
8 (4) 0500- Cimmerian (218) M Johnston 8-8 — M Roberts
9 (5) 00 5 Digital Option (25) Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 — M Deering
10 (3) 000-00 Keepsake (11) M Usher 8-5 — J Quinn
11 (11) 40-226 Fearless Sioux (46) C Thornton 8-4 — Dale Gibson

Betting: 4-1 Krosno, 13-2 Kuello, Madison Welcome, 7-1 Fantail, Quezon City, Fearless Sioux, 8-1 Hoh Flyer, Beau Roberto.

3.45 TOTE ZETLAND GOLD CUP HANDICAP
1m 2f £14,785 (12 declared)

1 (11) 0105-0 Moving Arrow (16) (D) Miss S Hall 6-9-10 — T Lucas
2 (12) 0/12-3 Najm Mubeen (23) (D) A Stewart 4-9-8 — M Roberts
3 (8) 001-64 Clan Ben (11) H Cecil 5-9-8 — W Ryan
4 (6) 030-14 Romios (22) (D) P Cole 5-9-5 — J Fortune
5 (3) 030-23 Billy Bushwacker (21) (C) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-5 — A Culhane
6 (7) 00-421 Champagne Prince (24) (D) P Harris 4-9-2 — C Lowther (7)
7 (5) 0-0022 Remaadi Sun (13) (D) M Usher 5-8-12 — J Quinn ★
8 (4) 101103 Angel Face (15) (D) P Evans 4-8-10 — L Charnock
9 (1) 2160-0 Wakir (24) (D) P Calver 5-8-9 — Darren Moffatt (3)
10 (10) 00-080 Tertium (16) M Wane 5-8-9 — J Carroll
11 (9) 06-140 Gymcrak Premiere (8) (D) G Holmes 9-8-5 — M Fenton
12 (2) 1200-0 Gladys Althorpe (16) (C) J Eyre 4-7-13 — T Williams

Betting: 5-1 Najm Mubeen, 11-2 Billy Bushwacker, 6-1 Tertium, 7-1 Champagne Prince, 8-1 Clan Ben, Romios, Remaadi Sun, 10-1 Angel Face, 11-1 Wakir, 16-1 Moving Arrow, Gymcrak Premiere, 20-1 Gladys Althorpe.

4.15 STOKESLEY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
6f £3,561 (9 declared)

1 (3) Bongo C Thornton 9-0 — A Culhane
2 (5) 00 Makob (15) M Camacho 9-0 — L Charnock
3 (8) 00-3 Prince Of Parkes (38) J Berry 9-0 — J Fortune
4 (4) Running Bear Miss S Hall 9-0 — W Ryan
5 (1) 300464 Supercharmer (15) D Nicholls 9-0 — J Carroll ★
6 (8) 2350-0 Tailwind (14) W Muir 9-0 — M Roberts
7 (2) 05660- Alisadara (280) N Bycroft 8-9 — J Quinn
8 (6) 00-000 Chilled Wine (10) G Kelly 8-9 — Dale Gibson
9 (7) 004- Onemoretime (218) B Murray 8-9 — V Halliday

Betting: 5-2 Prince Of Parkes, 3-1 Tailwind, 4-1 Supercharmer, 8-1 Running Bear, Onemoretime, 12-1 Bongo, Makob, Alisadara, 25-1 Chilled Wine.

4.50 ROSE GARDEN HANDICAP
1m 6f 19yds £2,976 (10 declared)

1 (2) 5-1295 Sedbergh (10) (D) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-0 — A Culhane
2 (4) 1260-0 Domappel (22) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-12 — M Roberts
3 (7) 21-002 Bradessa (22) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 11-9-2 — S Copp (5)
4 (6) 5316-2 Campaspe (15) J FitzGerald 5-8-12 — J Fortune
5 (10) 122-00 Faugeron (10) (CD) N Tinkler 8-8-8 — Iona Wands (5)
6 (9) -31353 Moonraking (22) T Etherington 4-8-6 — J Carroll
7 (1) -06563 Lord Hastie (4) (D) C Thornton 9-8-1 — T Williams
8 (3) 60-020 Highfield Fizz (9) (CD) C Fairhurst 5-7-12 — L Charnock
9 (5) 430-05 Dashing Invader (20) P Harris 4-7-10 — J Quinn
10 (8) -00000 Ship's Dancer (47) Emico Incisa 4-7-10 — Kim Tinkler ★

Betting: 7-2 Campaspe, 5-1 Bradessa, 13-2 Domappel, Moonraking, 7-1 Sedbergh, Dashing Invader, 8-1 Lord Hastie, Highfield Fizz.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
K Darley	49	252	19.4	+16.57	Mrs M Reveley	41	323	12.7	-24.67
K Fallon	20	135	14.8	-37.81	J Berry	14	133	10.5	-31.50
J Weaver	17	114	14.9	-11.29	M Johnston	14	139	10.1	-71.37
Dean McKeown	15	131	11.5	-33.50	T D Barron	10	71	14.1	-5.87
J Fortune	14	147	9.5	-51.09	J L Eyre	8	77	10.4	-11.01
L Dettori	12	56	21.4	-18.09	Mrs J R Ramsden	7	74	9.54	-21.17
					H R A Cecil	6	33	18.2	-16.31

Trainer watch

Horses on the Flat having their first run for a new trainer today — Chepstow: 4.00 Fayik, H Thomson Jones to M R Stoute; 5.00 Palo Blanco, T Barron to G L Moore.
Leicester: 2.55 Rock The Barney, P Burgoyne to M Usher, Tauten, P Burgoyne to M D Usher; 5.25 Celandine, J Eyre to A Turnell, Macgillycuddy, P Prendergast to Mrs N Dutfield.
Redcar: 2.45 That Old Feeling, J White to D Chapman; 3.15 Cimmerian, Mrs J Ramsden to M Johnston.
Sandown: 3.40 Aunty Jane, B Hills to J Dunlop, Lomberto, R Hannon to V Soane; 5.20 Desert Time, M Channon to C Horgan, Rivers Magic, J White to J Bridger, Typhoon Eight, B Hills to R W Armstrong

Chepstow

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.30	Tikopia	Prairie Falcon
3.00	Ajayib (nb)	Roufontaine
3.30	Mo-Addab	Mo-Addab
4.00	Fayik	Fayik
4.30	Island Girl	Swoosh (nap)
5.00	Deerly	Strat's Quest

Left-handed, two-mile track with a five furlong run-in which rises sharply and a straight mile.
Going: Good to soft, Good in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best in sprints
Long distance travellers: Horses trained at Newmarket by C Wall, H Cecil, J Gosden, L Cumani, M Stoute, 164 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.00 Star Precision.
Blinkered first time: 3.00 Contract Bridge; 5.00 Tinker Osmaston.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.30 ST ARVANS MAIDEN STAKES
1m 4f 23yds £3,716 (13 declared)

1 (13) 3-0 Nigels Choice (7) C Hill 5-9-12 ... R Havlin (3)
2 (6) 6-4 Pacessis (23) H Cecil 4-9-12 ... A McGlone
3 (11) Sheep Stealer (J26) R Peacock 9-9-12 ... B Price
4 (3) 0 All Done (23) S Mellor 4-9-7 ... M Wigham
5 (4) 00 Alhosaam (14) W Hern 3-8-9 ... D O'Shea
6 (9) Badenoch J Gosden 3-8-9 ... G Hind
7 (2) 0-40 Copper Shell (14) A P Jones 3-8-9 ... D O'Donohoe (3)
8 (5) 525-52 Mardi Gras (46) (BF) J Dunlop 3-8-9 ... R Hughes
9 (5) 25-35 Prairie Falcon (41) B Hills 3-8-9 ... J D Smith (3)
10 (12) 3 Tikopia (22) I Balding 3-8-9 ... S Whitworth
11 (1) 5 Yak Altaraj (16) M Stoute 3-8-9 ... D Harrison
12 (7) Eastbury Rose A P Jones 3-8-4 ... N Adams
13 (10) 0 Poland Westworth (11) Gay Kelleway 3-8-4 ... A Whelan (3)

Betting: 3-1 Prairie Falcon, 4-1 Mardi Gras, 5-1 Badenoch, Tikopia, 6-1 Pacessis, 10-1 Alhosaam, Yak Altaraj.

3.00 ST ATHAN FILLIES' HANDICAP
1m 4f 23yds £3,443 (8 declared)

1 (3) 450-61 Roufontaine (14) (CD) W Muir 6-10-0 ... R Havlin (3)
2 (5) 20-244 Shalateeno (21) (C) B Millman 4-9-4 ... M Wigham
3 (4) 221-2 Ajayib (32) (C) (BF) J Dunlop 3-9-1 ... R Hughes
4 (1) 005-11 Star Precision (7) (6lb ex) G Balding 3-9-0 ... B Price
5 (7) 00-021 Elly Fleetfoot (9) (D) G L Moore 5-8-6 ... S Whitworth ★
6 (2) 65415- Contract Bridge (J13) P Murphy 4-8-3 ... D Harrison ★
7 (8) 030-6 Moonspell (14) R Charlton 3-8-1 ... A McGlone
8 (6) 30-064 Daily Sport Girl (J5) B Llewellyn 8-7-10 ... D O'Shea

Betting: 9-4 Star Precision, 3-1 Ajayib, 9-2 Roufontaine, 11-2 Shalateeno, 13-2 Moonspell, 12-1 Elly Fleetfoot, 14-1 Contract Bridge, 16-1 Daily Sport Girl.

3.30 ST MELLONS LIMITED STAKES
1m 14yds £3,511 (6 declared)

1 (4) 3-3162 Sharp Shuffle (5) (D) R Hannon 4-9-8 ... R Hughes
2 (6) 463-00 Attarikh (53) Mrs A King 4-9-6 ... A McGlone
3 (3) 00030- Mo-Addab (238) (D) A Stewart 7-9-6 ... S Whitworth
4 (1) 544-00 Kewarra (11) B Millman 3-8-8 ... A Whelan (3)
5 (2) 60-50 Truly Parched (20) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-8 ... R Havlin (3)
6 (5) 252-34 Ghayyur (15) J Dunlop 3-8-5 ... D O'Donohoe (3)

Betting: Evens Sharp Shuffle, 3-1 Mo-Addab, 4-1 Ghayyur, 8-1 Kewarra, 14-1 Truly Parched, 50-1 Attarikh.

4.00 ST BRIAVELS MAIDEN STAKES
1m 14yds £3,761 (8 declared)

1 (6) 0-0 Atomic Shell (20) C Wall 4-9-10 ... N Day
2 (4) 0 Blue Calvine (7) C Hill 3-8-12 ... M Wigham
3 (5) Danzas R Charlton 3-8-12 ... A McGlone
4 (8) 3-33 Deep Water (52) P Cole 3-8-12 ... David O'Neill (7)
5 (7) 5- Fayik (215) M Stoute 3-8-12 ... D Harrison
6 (2) 05 Stilett (10) L Cumani 3-8-12 ... O Urbina
7 (1) 060- Cugina (216) G Balding 3-8-7 ... B Price
8 (3) 0 Kara Queen (15) C Hill 3-8-7 ... N Adams

Betting: 2-1 Deep Water, 5-2 Fayik, 9-2 Stilett, 11-2 Danzas, 10-1 Cugina, 14-1 Atomic Shell, 20-1 Kara Queen, 25-1 Blue Calvine.

4.30 ST WEONARDS SELLING STAKES
6f 16yds £2,262 (7 declared)

1 (7) Goldenacres J Neville 8-11 ... A McGlone
2 (6) 642 Swoosh (4) (BF) B Meehan 8-11 ... R Hughes
3 (2) 06 Dixie Crossroads (7) R Hannon 8-6 ... D Harrison
4 (3) Flibbertigibbet C Hill 8-6 ... N Adams
5 (4) Hozdeen W G M Turner 8-6 ... R Havlin (3)
6 (1) 6 Island Girl (56) D Arbuthnot 8-6 ... S Whitworth
7 (5) 6 Tremonnow (21) J Bradley 8-6 ... G Hind

Betting: 3-4 Swoosh, 11-4 Dixie Crossroads, 3-1 Island Girl, 13-2 Tremonnow, 10-1 Hozdeen, 12-1 Flibbertigibbet, 20-1 Goldenacres.

5.00 ST BRIDES FILLIES' HANDICAP
6f 16yds £3,784 (15 declared)

1 (8) 30-002 La Petite Fusee (16) (CD) R O'Sullivan 6-10-0 ... D O'Donohoe (3)
2 (6) 056-52 Palo Blanco (14) (D) (BF) G L Moore 6-9-8 ... S Whitworth
3 (15) 350-30 Bold Tina (14) R Hannon 3-8-12 ... R Hughes
4 (5) 050500 Tea Party (11) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-11 ... A McGlone ★
5 (14) 30-003 Silver Purse (7) (D) A P Jones 3-8-11 ... M Wigham
6 (7) 03-430 Tajrebah (9) P Walwyn 3-8-10 ... G Hind
7 (13) 010-01 Strat's Quest (14) (CD) D Arbuthnot 3-8-9 ... D Harrison
8 (4) 40-540 Tinker Osmaston (7) (C) (D) M Saunders 6-8-9 ... B Price ★
9 (1) 111-00 Newlands Corner (11) (D) J Akehurst 4-8-7 ... J D Smith (3) ★
10 (10) 0053-0 Sharp 'n' Shady (27) C Wall 4-8-5 ... N Day
11 (13) 131-00 Make Ready (18) J Neville 3-8-3 ... J Tate
12 (9) 0-00 Sugar Plum (15) R Hannon 3-8-0 ... A Whelan (3)
13 (11) 0000-5 Deerly (7) (D) R Dickin 4-7-10 ... A Polli (5)
14 (2) 00500- Catandrelle (239) G Balding 4-7-10 ... N Adams
15 (3) 040-00 Wild Nettle (14) J Fox 3-7-10 ... D O'Shea

Betting: 11-2 La Petite Fusee, 13-2 Strat's Quest, 7-1 Palo Blanco, Tajrebah, 8-1 Silver Purse, 10-1 Bold Tina, Tinker Osmaston, Newlands Corner.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
J Reid	12	77	15.6	-31.48	R Hannon	14	111	12.6	-38.71
L Dettori	9	31	29	-0.32	M R Stoute	9	21	42.8	+9.03
T Quinn	9	73	12.3	-35.00	P W Chapple-Hyam	9	35	25.7	+5.96
Pat Eddery	7	43	16.3	-20.75	D W P Arbuthnot	7	34	20.6	+41.00
S Whitworth	7	50	14	+5.13	J H M Gosden	6	29	20.7	-10.51
T Sprake	7	69	10.1	-14.00	B R Millman	6	37	16.2	+9.50
					L M Cumani	5	10	50.3	+2.11

Fontwell (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.00	Noble Lord	Major Dundee
2.30	Evening Rain	Shikaree
3.00	Red Branch	Red Branch
3.30	The Flying Doctor	Brindley House
4.00	Trifast Lad	Mighty Falcon
4.30	Jovie King	Moving Out

The chase course is shaped like a figure of eight, while the hurdles course is a left-handed oval.
Going: Good, Good to Firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: 2.30 Cardenden, J Barclay, 460 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat

2.00 SOUTH COAST RADIO NOVICE HURDLE 4YO
2m 2f 110yds £2,262 (5 declared)

1 122340 Noble Lord (F10) R Buckler 12-2 ... B Powell
2 6211 Major Dundee (41) (CD) M Pipe 11-10 ... C Maude ★
3 3F5123 Anna Soleil (21) O Sherwood 11-4 ... J A McCarthy
4 64B Dubai Dolly (19) J Mullins 10-7 ... S Curran
5 P Grayco Choice (F408) P Clarke 10-7 ... B Fenton

Betting: 11-8 Major Dundee, 15-8 Noble Lord, 7-2 Anna Soleil, 8-1 Dubai Dolly, 50-1 P Grayco Choice.

2.30 FONTWELL SELLING HANDICAP CHASE
2m 2f £2,366 (14 declared)

1 341P/P Peace Officer (62) A Barrow 11-12-0 ... Mr O McPhail (7)
2 324F30 Shikaree (207) M Pipe 6-11-6 ... C Maude ★
3 2-5U11 Evening Rain (16) R Hodges 11-11-5 ... T Dascombe
4 0-4200 Beatle (13) (CD) P Rodgers 10-11-1 ... M Ahern
5 2BU20P Golden Opal (16) R Buckler 12-10-7 ... B Powell
6 4P0400 Days Of Thunder (18) Mrs S Odell 9-10-7 ... T J Murphy
7 5F365F Boxing Match (16) J Bradley 10-10-4 ... B Fenton
8 210623 Cardenden (16) J Barclay 9-10-2 ... W McFarland
9 560155 Rustic Gent (20) D Burchell 9-10-0 ... D J Burchell
10 026434 Indian Temple (23) K Bishop 6-10-0 ... G Supple (5)
11 4F440P Flowing River (16) N Mitchell 11-10-0 ... A Bates (5) ★
12 -002P5 Side Bar (F2) (CD) P Mooney 7-10-0 ... S Curran ★
13 36254P Upward Surge (27) R Ledger 7-10-0 ... Mrs N Ledger
14 335363 Sebbish (21) B Scriven 12-10-0 ... S Fox

Betting: 11-4 Evening Rain, 3-1 Shikaree, 13-2 Cardenden, 10-1 Golden Opal, Boxing Match, Indian Temple, 14-1 Rustic Gent.

3.00 THORNFIELD HANDICAP CHASE
3m 2f 110yds £2,944 (8 declared)

1 111511 Red Branch (13) (C) J King 8-11-10 ... T J Murphy
2 333P23 Frozen Drop (20) (CD) P Rodgers 10-11-8 ... S Fox
3 12142P Drumcollen (20) (BF) K Bailey 8-11-8 ... W McFarland
4 155622 Bamstown Bill (19) M Pipe 8-11-5 ... C Maude ★
5 245034 Karar (13) (C) (D) R Rowe 7-11-3 ... D O'Sullivan
6 31331P Trust Deed (16) S Knight 9-10-6 ... T Dascombe ★
7 23-206 Father Dowling (312) (CD) G Balding 10-10-3 ... B Fenton ★
8 424335 Master Comedy (21) (CD) Miss L Bower 13-10-0 ... S Powell ★

Betting: 2-1 Red Branch, 9-2 Bamstown Bill, 6-1 Drumcollen, Karar, 7-1 Frozen Drop, 8-1 Trust Deed, Father Dowling, 16-1 Master Comedy.

3.30 STREBEL BOILERS AND RADIATORS HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 6f 110yds £2,049 (8 declared)

1 5P3P21 Brindley House (12) (D) R Curtis 10-12-0 ... J Parkhouse (7)
2 005011 The Flying Doctor (14) G Balding 7-11-11 ... W McFarland
3 283423 Star Performer (4) A Hobbs 6-11-11 ... Mr G Shenkin (7)
4 P14562 Apache Park (13) (BF) D Burchell 4-10-10 ... D J Burchell
5 115434 Zingibar (19) J Bradley 5-10-9 ... B Fenton
6 414P33 Cambo (14) M Banks 11-10-8 ... D Skyrme
7 3/0003 The Grey Texan (21) R Rowe 8-10-0 ... D O'Sullivan
8 055-0 Wicklow Boy (F2) R Ingram 6-10-0 ... T J Murphy

Betting: 3-1 The Flying Doctor, 4-1 Brindley House, 9-2 Star Performer, Cambo, 11-2 Apache Park, 7-1 Zingibar, 16-1 The Grey Texan, 33-1 Wicklow Boy.

4.00 FONTWELL PARK HUNTERS' CHASE (amateurs)
3m 2f 110yds £1,203 (11 declared)

1 1-P3P1 Colonial Kelly (65) Mrs D Grissell 9-12-7 ... C Vigors (5)
2 211612 Trifast Lad (12) M J Roberts 12-12-7 ... P Hacking (3)
3 253U04 Fordstown (32) Jamie Alexander 8-12-0 ... J Alexander (7)
4 0-P11F Heathview (43) P Channings 10-12-0 ... M Portman (7)
5 131/P3 No Inhibitions (10) Mrs S Warr 10-12-0 ... A Warr (7)
6 226244 Al Frolic (15) D S Jones 10-11-7 ... Miss L Pearce (7)
7 1P4214 American Eyre (18) Mrs G Gladders 12-11-7 ... Miss S Gladders (7)
8 UC3313 Howaryadoon (9) P A Cave 11-11-7 ... Miss T Cave (7)
9 124123 Mighty Falcon (12) Emma Tory 12-11-7 ... Miss E Tory (7)
10 -4PPPF Mr Oriental (10) G Giganiesco 7-11-7 ... G Giganiesco (7)
11 4-U6U4 Tammy's Friend (8) (CD) Mrs L Kemble 10-11-7 ... R Wakley (7) ★

Betting: 7-2 Trifast Lad, 4-1 Colonial Kelly, 11-2 Mighty Falcon, 7-1 Heathview, Howaryadoon, 8-1 Tammy's Friend, 10-1 Fordstown, American Eyre.

4.30 TED TRIGGS MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 2f 110yds £2,242 (6 declared)

1 005462 Moving Out (16) Miss H Knight 9-12-0 ... Mr A Wintle (7)
2 01132 Jovie King (21) (CD) R Buckler 5-11-2 ... B Powell
3 16-564 Chieftain's Crown (106) T Hind 6-10-8 ... P McLoughlin
4 P22F32 Classic Pal (5) N Mitchell 6-10-0 ... D Skyrme
5 412206 Do Be Ware (8) J Ffitch-Heyes 7-10-0 ... B Fenton ★
6 -PF03B Lord Love (32) P Channings 5-10-0 ... T J Murphy

Betting: 2-1 Moving Out, 11-4 Jovie King, 3-1 Classic Pal, 7-1 Chieftain's Crown, 8-1 Do Be Ware, 12-1 Lord Love.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
A Maguire	23	137	16.8	-58.87	M C Pipe	20	73	27.4	-21.27
P Hide	22	97	22.7	+21.00	R Rowe	16	146	11.4	-41.69
J Osborne	18	56	32.1	+10.62	R Curtis	15	77	19.5	-38.23
A P McCoy	17	82	20.7	-17.24	R H Buckler	14	57	24.6	+32.43
D Morris	15	98	15.3	-46.85	G B Balding	11	67	16.4	-10.94
D O'Sullivan	14	106	13.2	-52.27	K C Bailey	9	34	26.5	-1.29
					O Sherwood	5	21	23.8	-2.69

Huntingdon (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.00	Circus Colours	Ajdar
2.30	Allimac Norris	Crackling Frost
3.05	Diwali Dancer	Shekels
3.35	Malwood Castle	Malwood Castle
4.05	Mister Drum	Mister Drum
4.35	Flic Royal	Flic Royal

Right-handed oval of 1½ miles. A flat track with easy bends.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: More Joy (3.35) B Ellison, Co Durham 218 miles: Major's Law, Devon, 205 miles; Pond House (2.30), Diwali Dancer (3.05) & Mozemo (3.35) M Pipe, Devon, 193 miles; Linlathen (3.05) & Country Orchid (4.35), Mrs M Reveley, Cleveland 186 miles; Angus McCoatup (2.00) & Allimac Nomis (2.30) M Hammond, N Yorks, 179 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.00 Swahili Run.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

2.00 WILLMOTT DIXON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELL HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 110yds £1,881 (11 declared)

1 206016 Circus Colours (F2) (D) J Jenkins 7-12-0 ... D Yellowlees (10)
2 /8045- Major's Law (416) (CD) T Hind 8-11-3 ... X Aizpuru
3 000 Angus McCoatup (118) M Hammond 4-10-13 ... F Leahy
4 03020 Maggies Lad (32) P Calver 9-10-13 ... P Henley
5 36P01P Kalzari (31) (D) A Carroll 12-10-12 ... J Magee
6 /02365 Our Eddie (6) K Wingrove 8-10-10 ... S Ryan ★
7 253223 Summer Villa (14) K Wingrove 5-10-9 ... J Power (3) ★
8 035254 Caddy's First (21) S Mellor 5-10-8 ... C Webb (3) ★
9 030435 Ajdar (8) (D) (BF) O Brennan 6-10-5 ... R Massey
10 R-FFP6 Swahili Run (21) (D) J O'Shea 9-10-1 ... M Griffiths (3) ★
11 460043 Tee Tee Too (12) A Carroll 5-10-0 ... B Stadlebaur (5)

Betting: 9-2 Circus Colours, 11-2 Caddy's First, 6-1 Summer Villa, 7-1 Angus Mccoatup, Ajdar, 8-1 Kalzari, Our Eddie, Tee Tee Too.

2.30 SWYNFORD PADDOCKS HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE
2m 110yds £3,138 (7 declared)

1 1PU411 Pond House (10) (D) M Pipe 8-12-0 ... J F Titley
2 /PP302 My Young Man (14) (D) C Brooks 12-11-12 ... G Bradley
3 4624P2 Lowawatha (12) (D) Mrs E Heath 9-11-5 ... D Gallagher
4 213P-6 Allimac Nomis (30) M Hammond 8-11-0 ... R Garritty
5 312F21 Crackling Frost (21) (D) Mrs D Haine 9-10-9 ... R Dunwoody
6 113P3- Come On Dancer (364) J White 9-10-9 ... J R Kavanagh
7 520131 Dr Rocket (42) (D) R Dickin 12-10-6 ... X Aizpuru (5) ★

Betting: 7-4 Pond House, 7-2 Crackling Frost, 11-2 Dr Rocket, 7-1 My Young Man, 8-1 Lowawatha, Come On Dancer, 12-1 Allimac Nomis.

3.05 QUALITAIR GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 5f 110yds £2,924 (6 declared)

1 000611 Diwali Dancer (13) M Pipe 7-11-13 ... R Dunwoody
2 11-241 Linlathen (11) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-10 ... P Niven
3 0-3412 Shekels (87) (BF) C Brooks 6-11-0 ... G Bradley
4 065212 Scud Missile (21) J W Payne 6-10-5 ... A Thornton
5 242-PP Royal Citizen (F30) (CD) J Bottomley 8-10-0 ... D Byrne
6 4P403U Moobakkr (30) (D) K Morgan 6-10-0 ... X Aizpuru (5)

Betting: 9-4 Diwali Dancer, 11-4 Linlathen, 4-1 Shekels, Scud Missile, 7-1 Moobakkr, 20-1 Royal Citizen.

3.35 AIRFOYLE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
3m £3,069 (10 declared)

1 F21321 Malwood Castle (13) (D) R Alner 7-12-0 ... Mr J Tizzard (7)
2 1-00P1 Mister Goodguy (12) (C) (D) R Curtis 8-10-8 ... D Morris
3 -35P13 Just One Canaletto (23) (BF) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-7 ... Mr J Goldstein (7) ★
4 2P2335 Mozemo (27) (BF) M Pipe 10-10-0 ... R Massey (3)
5 -02PPP Damcada (21) A Carroll 9-10-0 ... D Gallagher ★
6 43-PP3 Colonel Colt (76) R Dickin 6-10-0 ... D Leahy
7 50P564 More Joy (23) B Ellison 9-10-0 ... J R Kavanagh
8 -56053 Professor Page (8) T Thomson Jones 7-10-0 ... A Thornton
9 4PP4-P Cotswold Castle (23) J O'Shea 11-10-0 ... M Griffiths (7) ★
10 40P13P Saint Bene't (28) (C) (D) G Prodromou 9-10-0 ... X Aizpuru (5) ★

Betting: 3-1 Just One Canaletto, 4-1 Malwood Castle, 5-1 Mister Goodguy, 7-1 Mozemo, Professor Page, 8-1 Colonel Colt, 12-1 Damcada.

4.05 EDWARD WOOTTON NOVICE CHASE
2m 4f 110yds £2,978 (5 declared)

1 2F12I4 Mister Drum (36) (CD) (BF) M Wilkinson 8-12-7 ... R Dunwoody
2 31FF41 Sigma Run (21) J O'Shea 8-12-0 ... J R Kavanagh
3 3F2 Bugsy Moran (22) C Millington 7-11-0 ... G Bradley
4 03P450 Chiappucci (13) Mrs E Heath 7-11-0 ... D Gallagher ★
5 P Methodius (27) J Jenkins 5-10-7 ... D Morris

Betting: 11-10 Mister Drum, 15-8 Sigma Run, 7-4 Bugsy Moran, 10-1 Chiappucci, 14-1 Methodius.

4.35 HUNTINGDONSHIRE MENCAP SUPPORT ASSOCIATION MAIDEN HURDLE
2m 110yds £2,688 (12 declared)

1 0063 Master Watson (18) C Smith 6-11-5 ... M Ranger
2 0 Harvest Reaper (8) J L Harris 5-11-5 ... R Massey (3)
3 234050 Nashaat (12) K Burke 9-11-5 ... J F Titley
4 0P0PP Boquita (26) J McConnochie 10-11-5 ... X Aizpuru (5) ★
5 5/2 Tarragon (16) O Sherwood 7-11-5 ... R Dunwoody
6 00 Tedross (112) J Poulton 6-11-5 ... J Magee (3)
7 Alicia Lea (F192) R Curtis 5-11-0 ... D Morris
8 261422 Country Orchid (24) (D) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 ... P Niven
9 Dublin River (F255) J O'Shea 4-11-0 ... J R Kavanagh
10 4 Ellen Gail (21) R Alner 5-11-0 ... A Thornton
11 62 Flic Royal (78) S Mellor 4-11-0 ... C Webb (5)
12 203-05 Qualitair Pride (F64) (BF) J Bottomley 5-11-0 ... D Byrne

Betting: 3-1 Tarragon, 7-2 Country Orchid, 9-2 Flic Royal, 7-1 Dublin River, 8-1 Ellen Gail, Qualitair Pride, 14-1 Nashaat.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
A Maguire	20	107	18.7	-15.37	Mrs M Reveley	12	38	31.6	+1.96
P Hide	17	66	25.8	+19.87	J White	9	60	15.3	-20.43
R Dunwoody	16	95	16.8	-28.80	J R Jenkins	9	148	6.23	-92.97
N Williamson	15	65	23.1	-6.52	O Brennan	8	54	14.8	-14.59
S McNeill	13	65	20	-8.82	Mrs D Haine	7	44	15.9	+5.75
D Bridgwater	13	75	17.3	+7.29	O Sherwood	6	48	12.5	-7.75
					M C Pipe	5	21	23.8	-3.21

Wetherby (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.15	Kadari	Fair And Fancy
2.45	Malta Man	Desert Brave
3.15	Teejay'n'aitch	Contrafire
3.45	Sounds Strong	Buckboard Bounce
4.15	Great Gusto	My Nominee
4.45	In Good Faith	In Good Faith

A flat, fair oval course of 1m 4f, with a slight uphill run-in.
Going: Good, Good to Firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers
Long distance travellers: 4.15 Great Gusto, Miss L Blackford, Devon, 270 miles, 4.15 Alpha One, D Bassett, Devon, 265 miles; 3.15 Teejay'n'aitch, J Goldie, 211 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

2.15 SANDBECK MOTORS CLAIMING HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £2,425 (10 declared)

1 00/5 Cool Game (111) D Barker 7-11-0 ... P Midgley (3)
2 F63-P1 Fair And Fancy (21) Miss M Milligan 6-11-0 ... Mr S Swiers
3 -64453 Master Of Troy (22) (D) C Parker 9-11-0 ... D Parker
4 1-P431 Kirstenbosch (12) L Lungo 10-10-12 ... W Dowling (7)
5 0003 Recruitment (23) J Turner 4-10-11 ... T Reed
6 40-0FP Fiery Sun (24) (D) R Barr 12-10-10 ... N Wells
7 0P-056 Frat (12) J Wainwright 7-10-10 ... Mr K Green
8 041142 Sousse (23) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-8 ... G Lee
9 263134 Kadari (23) W Clay 8-10-7 ... R Johnson ★
10 3 Maney (F248) J Hetherton 4-10-5 ... L Wyer

Betting: 4-1 Master Of Troy, Sousse, 5-1 Fair And Fancy, Kirstenbosch, Maney, 13-2 Kadari, 10-1 Recruitment.

2.45 MOORSIDE LANDROVER CENTRE NOVICES' CHASE
3m 1f £3,415 (9 declared)

1 PPPPB1 Lepton (17) J Curtis 6-11-8 ... R Johnson ★
2 245051 Malta Man (31) P Cheesbrough 7-11-8 ... R McGrath (5)
3 435-14 Now Young Man (38) (D) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-8 ... J Supple
4 601/44 Evening Rush (24) J Wade 11-11-6 ... D Parker
5 3F3635 Desert Brave (16) Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 ... B F Ryan (5)
6 34232F Kitulla (2) Mrs S Smith 7-11-2 ... L Wyer
7 P4/P0 Knock Star (55) R Champion 6-11-2 ... L O'Hara
8 UE5654 Quixall Crossett (10) E Caine 12-11-2 ... Mr T J Barry (7)
9 246004 Movie Man (24) J Turner 5-10-8 ... T Reed

Betting: 2-1 Malta Man, 11-4 Kitulla, 11-2 Now Young Man, Desert Brave, 10-1 Lepton, Movie Man, 16-1 Evening Rush.

3.15 'LA FEMME' LADY RIDERS' HANDICAP HURDLE
2m £2,600 (6 declared)

1 623-10 Nordic Sun (389) (D) Mrs J Brown 9-12-0 ... J Wormall (7)
2 112 Contrafire (F15) (BF) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-8 ... F Needham (7)
3 124-15 Mr Moriarty (F67) (D) S Bowring 6-10-10 ... M Morris (7)
4 U21111 Teejay'n'aitch (F7) (CD) J Goldie 5-10-10 ... A Deniel (7)
5 505132 Kierchem (18) (CD) (BF) C Grant 6-10-0 ... S Grant (7)
6 0-2505 Stags Fell (23) (D) T Cuthbert 12-10-0 ... C Cuthbert

Betting: 9-4 Contrafire, 5-2 Teejay'n'aitch, 4-1 Mr Moriarty, 5-1 Kierchem, 6-1 Nordic Sun, 33-1 Stags Fell.

3.45 GODFREY LONG HANDICAP CHASE
3m 1f £4,390 (3 declared)

1 0-P04P Buckboard Bounce (37) G Richards 11-12-0 ... L Wyer
2 232U0P Glemot (15) K Bailey 9-11-9 ... Mr R Wakley (7)
3 1F16P2 Sounds Strong (16) (CD) D Nicholson 8-11-4 ... R Johnson

Betting: 4-6 Sounds Strong, 11-4 Buckboard Bounce, 7-2 Glemot.

4.15 GUY CUNARD HUNTERS' CHASE (Amateurs)
2m 4f 110yds £1,308 (16 declared)

1 121130 My Nominee (12) (D) D E Nicholls 9-12-7 ... R Burton (7) ★
2 461451 Not My Line (14) Andy Morgan 8-12-7 ... W Wales (7)
3 3P-511 Great Gusto (31) (D) Miss L Blackford 11-12-4 ... L Blackford (7)
4 32-F21 Savoy (11) (C) (D) G Richards 10-12-4 ... A Ogden (7)
5 16453P Alpha One (5) D Bassett 12-12-0 ... K Di Marte (7)
6 PF6P30 No Word (14) I Baker 10-12-0 ... I Baker
7 U23-22 Sandybraes (9) H Hutsby 12-12-0 ... F Hutsby (7)
8 -36U05 Simply Perfect (9) J Swindells 11-12-0 ... K Swindells (7)
9 223313 Cassaa (16) J Duell 10-11-9 ... Mrs S Grant (7)
10 U14338 Eastern Pleasure (21) (D) Ian Emmerson 10-11-9 ... T J Barry (7)
11 P23F21 Gaelic Warrior (16) Mrs F Clark 10-11-9 ... S Swiers
12 34153P Goodheavens Mrtony (18) Mrs A Lockwood 10-11-9 ... Miss A Deniel (7)
13 -03511 India Rock (15) R Tate 7-11-9 ... Mrs F Needham (7)
14 5-3P0P Skull Saor (8) (D) Miss P Fitton 10-11-9 ... C Mulhall (7)
15 033P1P Syrus P Turntable (14) Miss P Fitton 11-11-9 ... J Saville (7)
16 P0/F22 Japodene (37) Mrs S Lees 9-11-4 ... M Haigh (7)

Betting: 3-1 Savoy, 4-1 Great Gusto, 9-2 Sandybraes, 7-1 Gaelic Warrior, India Rock, 8-1 My Nominee, 10-1 Not My Line.

4.45 HOLIDAY NOVICES' HURDLE
2m £2,758 (9 declared)

1 156 Lagan (180) (CD) K Morgan 4-11-2 ... R Johnson
2 24203 Going Primitive (16) J Hetherton 6-11-0 ... D Parker
3 U03 Hansel's Streak (11) T Cuthbert 7-11-0 ... L O'Hara
4 F052 Hopeful Lord (11) P Cheesbrough 5-11-0 ... R McGrath (5)
5 240-4F In Good Faith (F8) J J Quinn 5-11-0 ... L Wyer
6 Sailormaite (F30) S Bowring 6-11-0 ... J Supple
7 4-0443 Western General (6) Miss M Milligan 6-11-0 ... Mr S Swiers
8 0F Regal Eagle (19) M Hammond 4-10-9 ... R Garritty
9 0 Honeysuckle Rose (30) L Lloyd-James 4-10-4 ... Mr K Green

Betting: 4-1 In Good Faith, Western General, 5-1 Lagan, Going Primitive, Hopeful Lord, 7-1 Sailormaite, Regal Eagle.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
P Niven	48	190	25.3	-11.75	Mrs M Reveley	51	190	26.8	-27.65
L Wyer	42	174	24.1	+22.90	G Richards	29	125	23.2	-14.89
A Maguire	22	95	23.2	+38.66	D Nicholson	17	60	28.3	+4.10
A Dobbin	19	115	16.5	-14.49	Mrs S J Smith	15	114	13.2	-34.32
B Geest	17	87	19.5	-1.44	M Hammond	13	152	8.83	-86.75
M Dwyer	12	129	9.3	-89.35	P Cheesbrough	10	101	9.92	-53.95
					L Lungo	4	30	13.3	-0.60

Cartmel (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.00	Battery Fired	Hacketts Cross
2.35	Plumbob	Plumbob
3.10	Bas De Laine	Bas de Laine
3.45	Valiant Dash	Valiant Dash
4.20	Go With The Wind	Go With The Wind
4.55	Grosvenor	Grosvenor

Tight, undulating, left-handed circuit of a mile with a long run-in of half a mile
Going: Good to Firm ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: 3.45 Prime Display, A Harvey, Essex, 245 miles; 2.00 Hacketts Cross, P Eccles, Lambourn 232 miles.
Seven day winners: 2.35 Plumbob.
Blinkered first time: 2.00 Apache Len, 4.55 Grosvenor
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing F Flat.

2.00 BURLINGTON SLATE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £2,402 (10 declared)

1 2222P Simply George (375) (D) (BF) J White 8-12-0 ... P Carberry
2 3025FP Hacketts Cross (154) (D) P Eccles 9-11-7 ... R Guest
3 0544-6 Never So Blue (5) P Bradley 6-11-2 ... B Wilkinson (5) ★
4 00156 Battery Fired (58) N Mason 8-10-13 ... J Callaghan
5 420031 In A Moment (16) C Grant 6-10-4 ... R Supple ★
6 50P Apache Len (30) M Hammond 4-10-3 ... N Horrocks (7) ★
7 063/P- Fanadiyr (F18) J Goldie 5-10-2 ... B Storey
8 F1P-P Phargold (21) (D) J A Harris 8-10-1 ... K Johnson
9 FPP6F Birthplace (23) R Tate 7-10-0 ... B Grattan (5)
10 F/0P4 Believe It (52) N Waggott 8-10-0 ... F Perratt

Betting: 7-2 Simply George, 5-1 Hacketts Cross, Battery Fired, 6-1 Never So Blue, 7-1 In A Moment, Apache Len.

2.35 VICTORIA TRADING (FRUIT IMPORTERS) LTD NOVICES' CHASE
2m 5f 110yds £2,894 (8 declared)

1 153040 Merlingford (58) Mr J Jordan 10-11-6 ... L McGrath (7)
2 -42421 Plumbob (5) (D) L Lungo 8-11-6 ... R Supple
3 02435 Bit Of A Dream (21) (BF) Mrs J Smith 7-11-0 ... R Guest
4 1 2P00 Canister Castle (2) Mrs Z Green 9-11-0 ... K Johnson
5 552 53 Nadiad (24) D Moffatt 11-11-1 ... B Storey ★
6 F/P0PP Persian Grange (16) D Lamb 7-11-0 ... J Burke
7 U-FPU4 Royal Banker (12) M Todhunter 7-11-0 ... P Carberry
8 51/PF Two For One (33) Miss L Russell 8-11-0 ... Mr M Bradburne

Betting: 6-4 Plumbob, 9-2 Bit Of A Dream, 11-2 Merlingford, 13-2 Royal Banker, 8-1 Nadiad, Two For One, 16-1 Persian Grange, 33-1 Canister Castle.

3.10 BURLINGTON SLATE HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs)
2m 5f 110yds £3,048 (6 declared)

1 131132 Bas de Laine (10) M Hammond 11-12-0 ... C Bonner (3) ★
2 412250 Fivelegh Builds (37) (D) Miss L Russell 10-11-13 ... M Bradburne (7)
3 5320/P Blazing Dawn (17) (C) J Hubbuck 10-10-0 ... P Robson (5)
4 61PP35 Hurricane Andrew (26) J A Moore 9-10-0 ... M Naughton (5)
5 PRPF/R Black Spur (18) J Turner 15-10-0 ... W Burnell (7)
6 1 UPP1 Sarona Smith (9) F Walton 10-10-0 ... J Walton

Betting: 6-4 Bas de Laine, 2-1 Fivelegh Builds, 11-2 Blazing Dawn, Hurricane Andrew, 14-1 Sarona Smith.

3.45 STANLEY LEISURE HANDICAP HURDLE
3m 2f £2,710 (6 declared)

1 231 6 Gymcrak Cyrano (F16) N Chamberlain 8-11-10 ... Miss C Metcalfe (7)
2 4245P Five Flags (16) Mrs S Smith 9-11-6 ... R Guest
3 560P6 Prime Display (27) A Harvey 11-11-4 ... R Supple
4 321F54 Valiant Dash (33) (C) J Goldie 11-11-1 ... S Taylor (5)
5 441200 Ruber (12) R Thompson 10-10-12 ... N Horrocks (7)
6 0040 Double Vintage (2) M Chapman 4-10-0 ... W Worthington

Betting: 9-4 Valiant Dash, 11-4 Five Flags, 4-1 Gymcrak Cyrano, Ruber, 8-1 Double Vintage, 14-1 Prime Display.

4.20 CROWTHER HOMES JUVENILE NOVICES' HURDLE
2m 1f 110yds £2,654 (7 declared)

1 64050 Go With The Wind (23) J Goldie 10-12 ... D J Moffatt
2 6P Orange Order (F14) J White 10-12 ... P Carberry
3 00F00 Port Valenska (30) Mrs J Conway 10-12 ... S Taylor (5)
4 2 Sheemore (12) M Hammond 10-12 ... Mr C Bonner (3)
5 5000 Another Quarter (2) M Chapman 10-7 ... K Johnson
6 4565 Down The Yard (F14) M Chapman 10-7 ... W Worthington
7 00062 Political Mandate (19) R Nunn 10-7 ... C McCormack (7)

Betting: 5-2 Sheemore, 7-2 Political Mandate, 9-2 Orange Order, Down The Yard, 6-1 Go With The Wind.

4.55 SWAN HOTEL AT NEWBY BRIDGE MAIDEN HURDLE
2m 6f £2,448 (8 declared)

1 20-0P Barrie Stir (180) J White 5-11-5 ... J Callaghan
2 P.0 Dramatic Pass (2) M Chapman 8-11-5 ... W Worthington
3 52532P Grosvenor (21) (BF) G Richards 6-11-5 ... P Carberry ★
4 -05320 Hand Of Straw (2) Mrs Z Green 5-11-5 ... K Johnson
5 0- Noble Norman (461) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5 ... Mr J Davies (7)
6 0/5 Nessam (128) N Mason 7-11-5 ... R Guest
7 0000 De-Veers Currie (32) D Moffatt 5-11-0 ... D J Moffatt
8 055 Reno's Treasure (14) J A Harris 4-10-8 ... R Supple

Betting: 6-5 Grosvenor, 6-4 Hand Of Straw, 12-1 Nessam, 16-1 Barrie Stir, Noble Norman, Reno's Treasure.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
A Dobbin	11	30	36.7	+22.00	G Richards	13	44	29.5	-6.46
P Niven	10	36	28.5	+11.56	J White	10	31	32.3	-3.09
R Johnson	6	11	54.5	+13.23	D Moffatt	6	25	24.5	-3.08
R Dunwoody	6	23	26.1	+2.19	M C Chapman	6	61	9.85	-14.25
D J Moffatt	6	28	21.4	-6.08	M Hammond	4	30	13.3	-19.77
N Bentley	5	10	50	+5.05	L Lungo	3	9	33.3	-2.75
					Paul Bradley	2	4	50.7	-3.50

Uttoxeter (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.30	Fill The Boot	Glamanglitz
3.00	Strike-A-Pose	Strike-A-Pose
3.30	Jimmy O'Dea	Doualago
4.00	Northern Starlight	Northern Starligh (nb)
4.30	Alaskan Heir	Miners Rest
5.00	Nordic Breeze	Nordic Breeze

Left-handed oval of 1¼ miles.
Going: Good to firm. Good in places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: 2.30 Mel, 3.00 Calgary Girl, R Buckler, Dorset, 179 miles.
Seven day winners: 3.00 Strike-A-Pose; 5.00 Nordic Breeze.
Blinkered first time: 2.30 Relaxed Lad: 4.00 Albemine.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F, Flat.

2.30 MOBILEFONE GROUP MAIDEN CHASE
2m 7f £2,915 (8 declared)

1 12-636 Baron's Heir (21) R Lee 10-11-2 ... W Marston
2 P412 Fill The Boot (8) Mrs I McKie 7-11-2 ... P Hide
3 433F3U Glamanglitz (41) P Dalton 7-11-2 ... A P McCoy
4 U5-P43 Little Gains (17) R Lee 8-11-2 ... J Bolton
5 F60/5 Mel (24) R Buckler 7-11-2 ... S McNeill
6 0-2024 Relaxed Lad (8) I Peacock 8-11-2 ... R Bellamy ★
7 044/P5 Steel Chimes (9) B Cambidge 8-11-2 ... Gary Lyons
8 14-0FP Dara's Course (98) Miss P Whittle 8-10-11 ... S Burrough

Betting: 5-2 Glamanglitz, 7-2 Fill The Boot, 9-2 Baron's Heir, Mel, 11-2 Little Gains, 8-1 Relaxed Lad.

3.00 JOHN STUBBS MEMORIAL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £1,900 (9 declared)

1 1-6F4 Bodantree (16) N Babbage 6-11-10 ... N Williamson
2 3 2122 Edward Seymour (24) (D) W Jenks 10-11-8 ... T Jenks
3 425015 Laura Lye (13) B De Haan 7-11-2 ... G Upton
4 -5P435 Mecado (13) (CD) F Yardley 10-10-11 ... W Marston ★
5 506301 Strike-A-Pose (5) (C) B Llewellyn 7-10-3 ... A P McCoy
6 0F0-00 Calgary Girl (13) R Buckler 5-10-0 ... J Mcdermott (7)
7 UPFF04 Station Express (20) G Ham 9-10-0 ... D J Kavanagh (5)
8 -50P0 Emerald Venture (8) (D) F Coton 10-10-0 ... C Rae
9 PPP-0P Orchestral Designs (F322) R Harris 6-10-0 ... T Kent

Betting: 5-2 Strike-A-Pose, 3-1 Edward Seymour, 4-1 Bodantree, Laura Lye, 5-1 Mecado, 20-1 Calgary Girl, Station Express.

3.30 NEVILLE LUMB & CO. HANDICAP CHASE
3m 2f £3,518 (6 declared)

1 01211 Doualago (10) (C) (D) M Pipe 7-12-0 ... A P McCoy ★
2 14/132 Imperial Vintage (10) (C) Miss V Williams 7-11-10 ... N Williamson
3 2-0031 Copper Mine (23) (D) O Sherwood 11-11-8 ... J Osborne
4 2-353P Nevada Gold (16) (C) F Yardley 11-10-1 ... W Marston
5 2-6P01 Jimmy O'Dea (17) (C) J Mackie 10-10-0 ... E Husband (3) ★
6 P02202 Solomon Springs (21) Mrs V Ward 7-10-0 ... R Bellamy

Betting: 9-4 Doualago, 3-1 Copper Mine, 7-2 Imperial Vintage, 11-2 Jimmy O'dea, 13-2 Nevada Gold, 14-1 Solomon Springs.

4.00 BACK A WINNER BY TRAIN HANDICAP HURDLE
2m £3,436 (5 declared)

1 11111F Northern Starlight (23) (D) M Pipe 6-11-10 ... A P McCoy
2 2-3011 Amlah (23) (D) P Hobbs 5-11-4 ... G Tormey
3 103630 Albemine (31) (D) Mrs J Cecil 8-11-3 ... T Kent ★
4 1-01F0 Serious (31) (CD) (BF) K Bailey 7-10-13 ... N Williamson
5 160102 Percy Braithwaite (21) (D) (BF) Miss P Whittle 5-10-7 ... J Osborne

Betting: 7-4 Amlah, 11-4 Northern Starlight, 4-1 Serious, 5-1 Albemine, Percy Braithwaite.

4.30 WELLMAN PLC NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE
2m 5f £2,928 (6 declared)

1 C6413F No Fiddling (16) G McCourt 6-11-10 ... D Fortt (3)
2 3P153P Frontier Flight (8) Miss L Siddall 7-11-8 ... E Husband (3) ★
3 411522 Miners Rest (20) P Hobbs 9-11-4 ... Mr R Widger (7)
4 556322 Alaskan Heir (21) A Streeter 6-11-0 ... T Eley ★
5 3P5418 Hangover (18) R Lee 11-10-10 ... P Henley (3)
6 FF6022 Wot No Gin (12) A J Wilson 8-10-6 ... R Williamson

Betting: 3-1 Mr Fiddling, Miners Rest, 7-2 Alaskan Heir, 11-2 Hangover, Wot No Gin, 7-1 Frontier Flight.

5.00 TWYFORDS BATHROOMS NOVICE HURDLE
2m £2,390 (7 declared)

1 2U0CF1 Nordic Breeze (6) (CD) M Pipe 5-12-0 ... A P McCoy
2 0 0PF1 Mr Lowry (9) L Barratt 5-11-7 ... S Wynne
3 -44224 Supermodel (165) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-2 ... N Williamson
4 FP P6P Fancytalkintinker (44) J Dalton 7-11-0 ... T Jenks
5 60-PP0 Amazon Heights (10) L Grassick 5-10-9 ... Mr J Grassick
6 -0606P Bellidium (30) A Jessop 5-10-9 ... T Kent
7 3P004 Khalikhoum (37) Sir J Barlow Bt 4-10-9 ... D J Kavanagh (5)

Betting: 5-6 Nordic Breeze, 11-2 Mr Lowry, Supermodel, 8-1 Fancytalkintinker, Khalikhoum, 25-1 Amazon Heights, Bellidium.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
R Dunwoody	41	172	23.8	-45.94	M C Pipe	38	145	28.2	-18.60
J Osborne	26	96	29.2	+54.22	K C Bailey	28	124	22.6	-4.70
N Williamson	25	149	16.8	-21.73	O Sherwood	19	69	27.5	+18.23
A Maguire	24	116	20.7	-3.05	P T Dalton	9	71	12.7	-15.50
D Bridgwater	21	114	18.4	-17.18	J Mackie	6	87	6.96	-57.63
A P McCoy	16	65	24.6	-3.73	R Lee	5	59	8.56	-29.90

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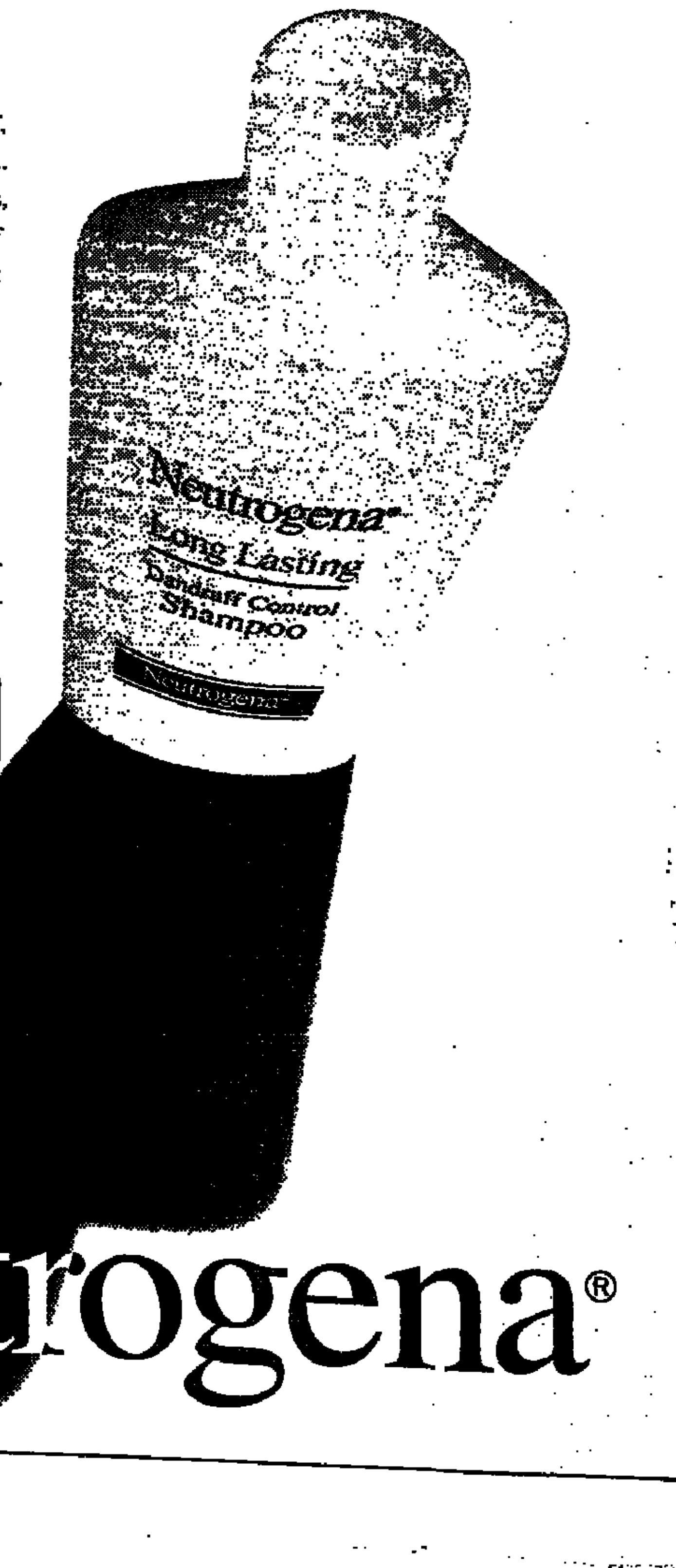

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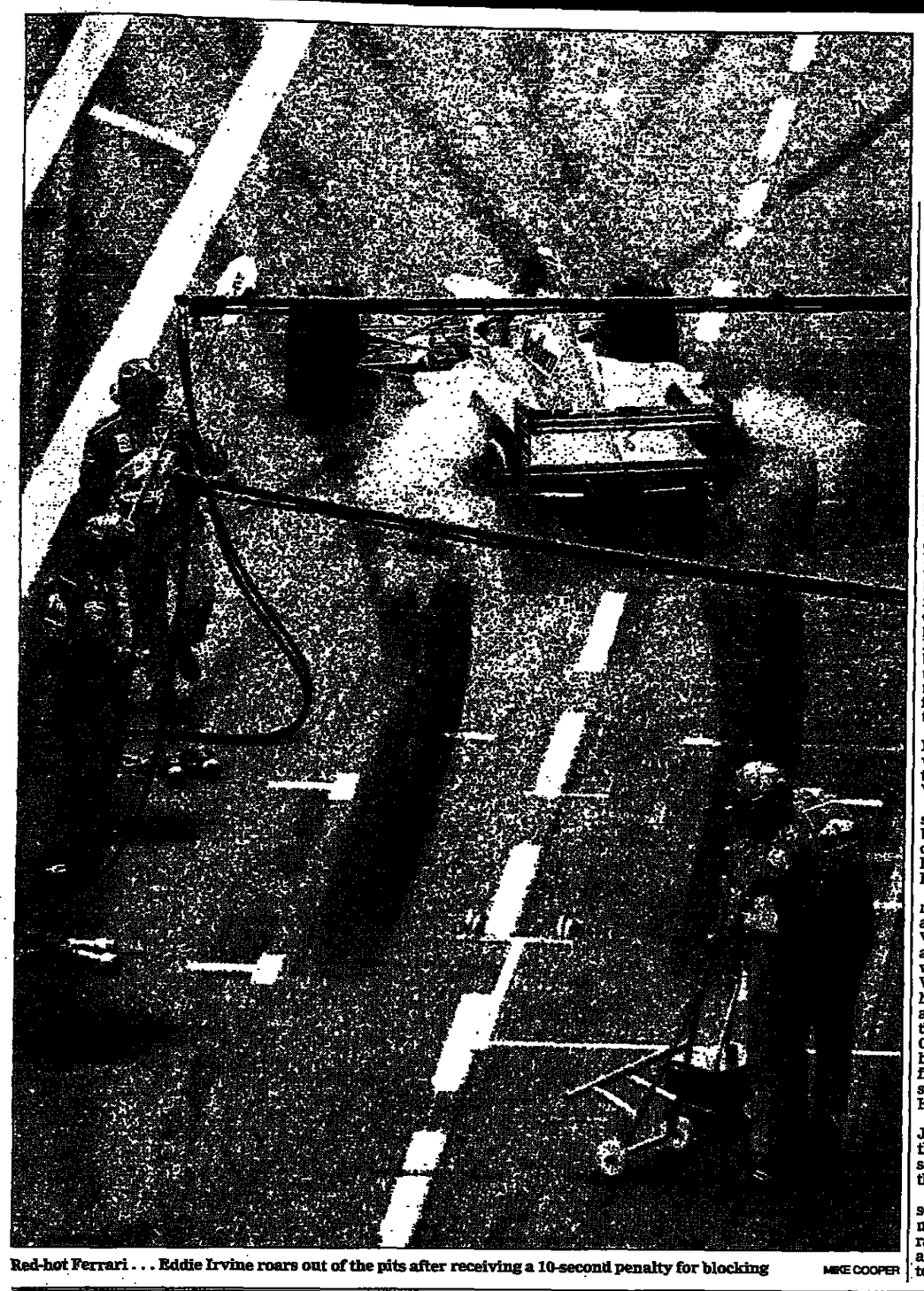


Red-hot Ferrari . . . Eddie Irvine roars out of the pits after receiving a 10-second penalty for blocking MIKE COOPER

Villeneuve game plan works like a dream

Alan Henry in Barcelona

JACQUES Villeneuve regained the world championship points lead with a mature and measured drive to victory in the Spanish Grand Prix here, a tactically complex race in which he was helped immeasurably when Michael Schumacher catapulted his Ferrari through into second place at the first corner after making a brilliant start from seventh on the grid.

Schumacher arrived knowing that there was precious little chance of repeating his Monaco victory and even less his dazzling triumph at Barcelona 12 months ago. Instead he opted for a damage-limitation exercise by running on brand new tyres and a light fuel load from the start in order to make up as many places as possible. But after his initial spurt Schumacher began to drop away as his tyres wore badly and it had the effect of bottling up the field and allowing Villeneuve to get well clear.

"I knew from testing that Michael would have trouble with his tyres and would have to do three stops," said Villeneuve.

"We opted for a two-stop strategy which I knew would be risky on my own tyres, but on a three-stop strategy you have to drive like a maniac to keep the lead."

By the time Schumacher made his first stop for fuel and tyres at the end of lap 14 Villeneuve was already 16sec ahead and the battle, as such, was effectively at an end. With tyre-wear problems also handicapping David Coulthard's McLaren, which ran third in the opening stages, Olivier Panis steadily worked his way through the field to finish second in the Bridgestone-shod Prost Mugen Honda.

It was the best result for the Japanese tyre company in their first Formula One season and Panis's best finish of the year.

But Panis almost lost his second place when he came up to lap Eddie Irvine's Ferrari in the closing stages, allowing Jean Alesi's Benetton and Schumacher to pull on to his tail. There was no suggestion that Irvine was responding to any team orders in an effort to help his team-mate but he was given a 10sec stop-go penalty for blocking and Panis later offered a brisk criticism of his rival's behaviour.

"It was just incredible trying to overtake Eddie," he said, "and it is very difficult to speak with this man, even though he obviously saw the blue [overtaking] flags. But perhaps he didn't see them, or maybe he has a problem with his eyes."

Irvine was hardly repentant. "I am upset about my penalty," he said. "I saw the flag but, as Jos Verstappen and I had a car to pass in front of us, I assumed they were for him."

Alesi eventually beat Schumacher across the line by 5.4sec to take third place, and Johnny Herbert's Sauber nipped ahead of Coulthard on the last lap to take fifth place.

"I had seen that David was locking up his front brakes going into the sharp hairpin," said Herbert.

"On the last lap we went side-by-side into the corner before that because I was deliberately trying to make him push too hard and overshoot the hairpin. That's what he did."

For Villeneuve it was a truly outstanding tactical performance in which he conserved his tyres on a high-grip track surface which is unusually abrasive. In 1981 his late father Gilles scored a spectacular Spanish Grand Prix victory at Madrid's Jarama track, where his uncompetitive Ferrari won by less than a second.

On this occasion the son enjoyed the benefit of a much better car but Jacques, it must be said, certainly applied just as much brain power.

● The Indianapolis 500 was postponed yesterday for the first time in 11 years by rain and has been rescheduled for today.

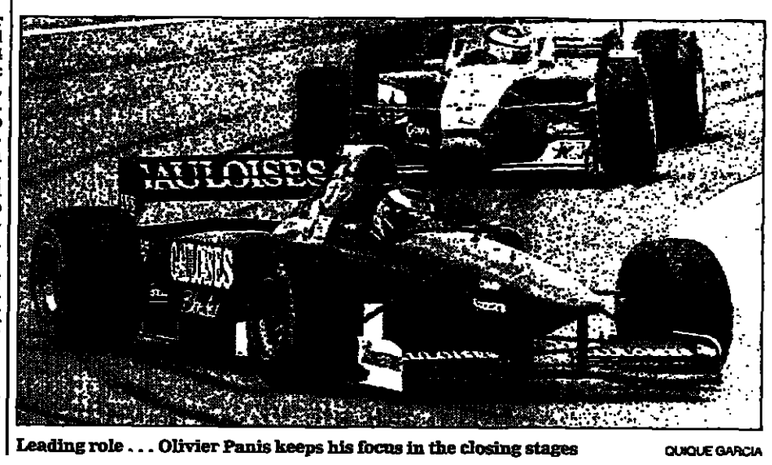
Barcelona details

1 **Jacques Villeneuve** (Can) 1:30.35.896
Williams-Renault ..... (average speed 124.3mph)
2 **Olivier Panis** (Fr) Prost Mugen-Honda ..... +5.804
3 **Jean Alesi** (Fr) Benetton-Renault ..... +12.534
4 **Michael Schumacher** (Ger) Ferrari ..... +17.979
5 **Johnny Herbert** (GB) Sauber-Petronas ..... +27.986
6 **David Coulthard** (GB) McLaren-Mercedes ..... +29.744
7 **Mika Hakkinen** (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes ..... +48.785
8 **Heinz-Harald Frentzen** (Ger) Williams-Renault ..... +1.04.139
9 **Giancarlo Fisichella** (It) Jordan-Peugeot ..... +1.04.767
10 **Gerhard Berger** (Aut) Benetton-Renault ..... +1.05.670.
11 **Jos Verstappen** (Neth) Tyrrell-Ford ..... 1 lap
12 **Eddie Irvine** (Ire) Ferrari ..... 1 lap
13 **Jan Magnussen** (Den) Stewart-Ford ..... 1 lap
14 **Gianni Morbidelli** (It) Sauber-Petronas ..... 2 laps
15 **Jarno Trulli** (It) Minardi-Hart ..... 2 laps

Did not finish (not classified): **16** P Diniz (Braz) Arrows-Yamaha 53 laps completed; **17 R Schumacher** (Ger) Jordan-Peugeot 50; **18 R Barrichello** (Braz) Stewart-Ford 37; **19 M Salo** (Fin) Tyrrell-Ford 35; **20 S Naicmo** (Japan) Prost Mugen-Honda 34; **21 D Hill** (GB) Arrows-Yamaha 18; **22 U Katayama** (Japan) Minardi-Hart, 11.

Drivers' championship standings: 1 Villeneuve 30pts; 2 M Schumacher 27; 3 O Panis 15; 4 Irvine 14; 5 Coulthard 11; 6 Frentzen 10= Berger, Hakkinen 10; 9 Alesi 7; 10 Barrichello (Brazil) 6; 11 Herbert 5; 12= R Schumacher (Germany), Fisichella 4; 14 Salo 2; 15 Larini 1.

Constructors' standings: 1 Ferrari 41pts; 2 Williams-Renault 40; 3 McLaren-Mercedes 21; 4 Benetton-Renault 17; 5 Prost Mugen-Honda 15; 6 Jordan-Peugeot 8; 7= Stewart-Ford, Sauber-Petronas, 6; 9 Tyrell-Ford, 2.



Leading role . . . Olivier Panis keeps his focus in the closing stages QUIQUE GARCIA

SOCCER

Redknapp break added to insult

David Lacey

JAMIE REDKNAPP looks like missing the start of next season for Liverpool after breaking his right ankle during England's 2-1 victory over South Africa at Old Trafford. The news is unlikely to improve relations between Anfield and Glenn Hoddle, already strained by Liverpool's decision to withdraw Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman from the England squad.

Redknapp went off early in the second half after an innocent-looking challenge by Phil Masinga, South Africa's former Leeds striker.

Yesterday morning Alan Smith, the England physio, visited the 23-year-old midfielder in a Manchester hospital and later confirmed that Redknapp had also suffered damaged ligaments. This is a repeat of the injury he received playing for England against Scotland in last summer's European Championship.

Redknapp did not start a match for Liverpool until mid-November.

His international career has been blighted by injuries. In November 1995 he tore a hamstring after only six minutes while playing against Switzerland in a friendly at Wembley.

"I am devastated for Jamie and his family," said Hoddle. "He has had wretched bad luck when it comes to playing for England and everybody will wish him a quick recovery."

Redknapp's broken ankle may not improve Hoddle's chances of repairing bridges between himself and the Liverpool manager Roy Evans. Liverpool have been incensed by the England coach's condemnation of the abrupt way Fowler and McManaman were pulled out of his squad for the South Africa friendly, Saturday's World Cup qualifier in Poland and the four-nation tournament which starts in France tomorrow week.

> "Jamie has had wretched bad luck when it comes to playing for England and everybody will wish hima quick recovery"

Fowler is to have nasal surgery to improve his breathing and McManaman is resting a knee injury.

Hoddle felt that Fowler's operation could have been delayed and implied that his absence might jeopardise his World Cup chances should England qualify.

Liverpool regarded this as a personal attack on Evans.

In the meantime Paul Gascoigne, carried off at Old Trafford with a bruised calf after being kicked by South Africa's Linda Buthelezi, is rated as only 50-50 for Poland.

Tony Adams, rested at the weekend because of his ankle problem, is an even bigger doubt.

Going home . . . England's Jamie Redknapp is carried off after his ankle was broken in a tackle MICHAEL STEELE

Wright puts friendship to one side

Patrick Glenn sees Kilmarnock lift the Scottish Cup with a goal of cruel irony

ALEX TOTTEN could have used one of those painted smiles favoured by losing nominees at the Oscars as he watched his former team deny his present one in the Scottish Cup final at Ibrox.

Instead the Falkirk manager chose to adhere to the aphorism that it's no loss what a friend gets. As Totten embraced Paul Wright at the end of a colourful, sometimes pulsating and ultimately satisfactory final, it was not difficult to recall those stories told by hostages of the special relationship they have formed with their captors.

Wright, the Kilmarnock striker, had been Totten's principal torturer, recovering from an appearance-threatening injury in time to score the only goal and take the cup to Rugby Park for the first time in 68 years.

Both men knew what they owed each other. The manager had signed the player twice in recent years, bringing him to St Johnstone after a couple of hellish spells with Queens Park Rangers and Hibernian and, in turn, recruiting him to the Kilmarnock cause in 1995.

Wright had justified Totten's belief by becoming each club's most valuable asset, his goals and general leadership of the Kilmarnock attack in the last two seasons contributing hugely to keeping them in the Premier Division.

Totten, of course, was not there to enjoy the latest piece of escapology — when Kilmarnock stayed up by virtue of a last-day draw with Aberdeen — as he had been sacked by the club at the turn of the year and had begun sprinkling his stardust over Falkirk in the First Division. But he knew before the first whistle of the final that Wright would be his new side's most menacing adversary.

Most of the Falkirk support, however, left the ground convinced that they were unlucky, especially when a more spirited performance in the second half saw them get the ball in the net, only for Neil Oliver's effort to be disallowed for offside.

Kilmarnock, it must be said, had more quality, inventiveness and incisiveness. Even if they appeared to be less dominant after the break, they still created the two best chances of the half.

Andy Gray, the former Crystal Palace, Tottenham, Aston Villa and England midfielder, ran back and made a telling challenge on Kilmarnock's Jim McIntyre after he was released through the middle.

Alex Burke, the teenage winger, was also played in from the left by the veteran Gus MacPherson but drove the ball straight at Craig Nelson when a cut-back would surely have allowed the lurking Wright to score his second. Wright's finishing in the 21st minute was clinical. When Burke's corner was delivered from the right, Jamie McGowne and Scott McKenzie rose in the challenge, with the ball breaking off the latter and travelling across the area to Wright at the far post.

The striker slightly miscued with his right foot on the turn but the ball bobbled away from Nelson.

Wright admitted it was not the sweetest contact he had ever made but added: "That's the kind that always seem to go in."

Kilmarnock's cup triumph is an extraordinary prize for their manager Bobby Williamson, who was happily learning the coaching trade with the club's youngsters when Totten's departure led to his being offered the caretakership only last December. The job is now his, with a new three-year contract agreed in the days before the final.

"In a few days I'll feel sorry for Alex," he said of his rival manager and friend.

"Now all I feel is elation for the Kilmarnock players and fans."

Booted blessing in disguise for Hoddle

David Lacey on England's meaningless 2-1 victory over South Africa and the meaningful injury to Gascoigne

SOCIAL occasions were always a poor preparation for coming battles but at least the Duchess of Richmond's ball featured the leading English characters who were shortly to fight at Waterloo.

The relevance of England's friendly with South Africa at Old Trafford, won 2-1 by a goal from Ian Wright which should have been disallowed for handling, to their World Cup qualifier in Poland this weekend was more tenuous. Indeed the spirit of Wellington was confined to the boot which Linda Buthelezi put into Paul Gascoigne in the 94th minute — a rare case of time literally being added on for injuries.

Gascoigne's right calf is sufficiently bruised to raise further doubts about his fitness to appear in Chorzow, his fitful performance having already questioned the wisdom of considering him for the game in the first place.

Glenn Hoddle had already lost Jamie Redknapp with his broken ankle early in the second half. After Saturday's game the England coach said he had been considering experimenting with Redknapp as a sweeper in the four-nation tournament in France which begins a week tomorrow. From now on Hoddle will be lucky if Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, lets him have a feather duster.

In the meantime England are in for yet another week of anxiety concerning the well-being of Gascoigne who, if he celebrates his 30th birthday tomorrow from a prone position, will at least be doing it on the treatment table. Hoddle described the tackle which rudely interrupted the player's return to full match fitness as "diabolical". Yet in a sense Buthelezi did both player and coach a favour.

For, had Gascoigne not been injured, the argument about whether Hoddle should play him in Poland would now be raging anew. Hoddle thought Gascoigne's performance was "spot on". It was not an opinion shared by all.

"He needed the 90 minutes to have any chance of playing against Poland. He did not need a spectacular performance but he still played well," Hoddle enthused.

In the eyes of others, however, Gascoigne's contribution was extremely limited. True, he beat a couple of defenders in the old manner after only two minutes. He also went close with one free-kick before setting up the winner with another. But in general he lay too deep to be anything like the consistent influence of old and he did not move further forward even after David Batty had come on for Redknapp.

When this point was raised Hoddle replied that "Gazza's not someone who's going to get in behind defences off the ball. He's never been a player that's gone in behind people and tried to make runs off the ball". That may be so but the old Gascoigne usually wanted the ball back once he had made a pass and was prepared to make runs into space to get it.

If Gascoigne no longer has the stamina to do this then his present value must remain questionable. Hoddle could bite the bullet in Chorzow and move David Beckham to the middle, retaining Phil Neville as right wing-back. Neville's performance was encouraging but in Gascoigne's absence Hoddle would be more likely to retain Robert Lee in the centre as the main support for Teddy Sheringham and Alan Shearer.

Hoddle's wisest decision on Saturday was to keep his principal means of scoring goals and stopping them, Shearer and David Seaman, out of the firing line. With eight changes in the side that had beaten Georgia this was a team of spare parts.

South Africa, the 1996 African Nations Cup winners and likely qualifiers for France next summer, were full of clever touches and in Mark Fish had a libero of genuine international quality. But for all Doctor Khumalo's imaginative nostrums they lacked attacking thrust.

In spite of Fish, moreover, they defended poorly at times. Neville was allowed easy possession before passing to Lee, who shot through a ruck of bodies to put England ahead after 20 minutes.

The equaliser came in the 43rd minute when Nigel Martyn, hesitating as John Moshoeu came in, failed to gather Khumalo's ball from the right. Moshoeu hooked it over the defence for Masinga to nod into the net.

Paul Scholes, Hoddle's fifth new cap, replaced Sheringham and with 15 minutes remaining flicked on Gascoigne's free-kick for Wright to control the ball, turn and shoot past Andre Arendse. But the Arsenal striker had clearly guided the ball down with a forearm.

Hoddle rejected the assertion by Clive Barker, South Africa's coach, that England had been "predictable" and their build-up "laboured". But, if Barker's team beat Zambia at home on Sunday week, they should qualify for the 1998 World Cup well ahead of England, assuming England qualify at all.

Stanley Matthews 'improving'

SIR Stanley Matthews was yesterday improving after a suspected minor heart attack on Friday.

Doctors said there had been an "encouraging improvement in his heart function".

Sir Stanley's wife Mila and Dr John Davis, one of the team treating the 82-year-old former England player, both declined to say he had a heart attack.

Davis said yesterday: "Close monitoring and support is still required."

Lady Matthews said he was expected to be in hospital for another week.

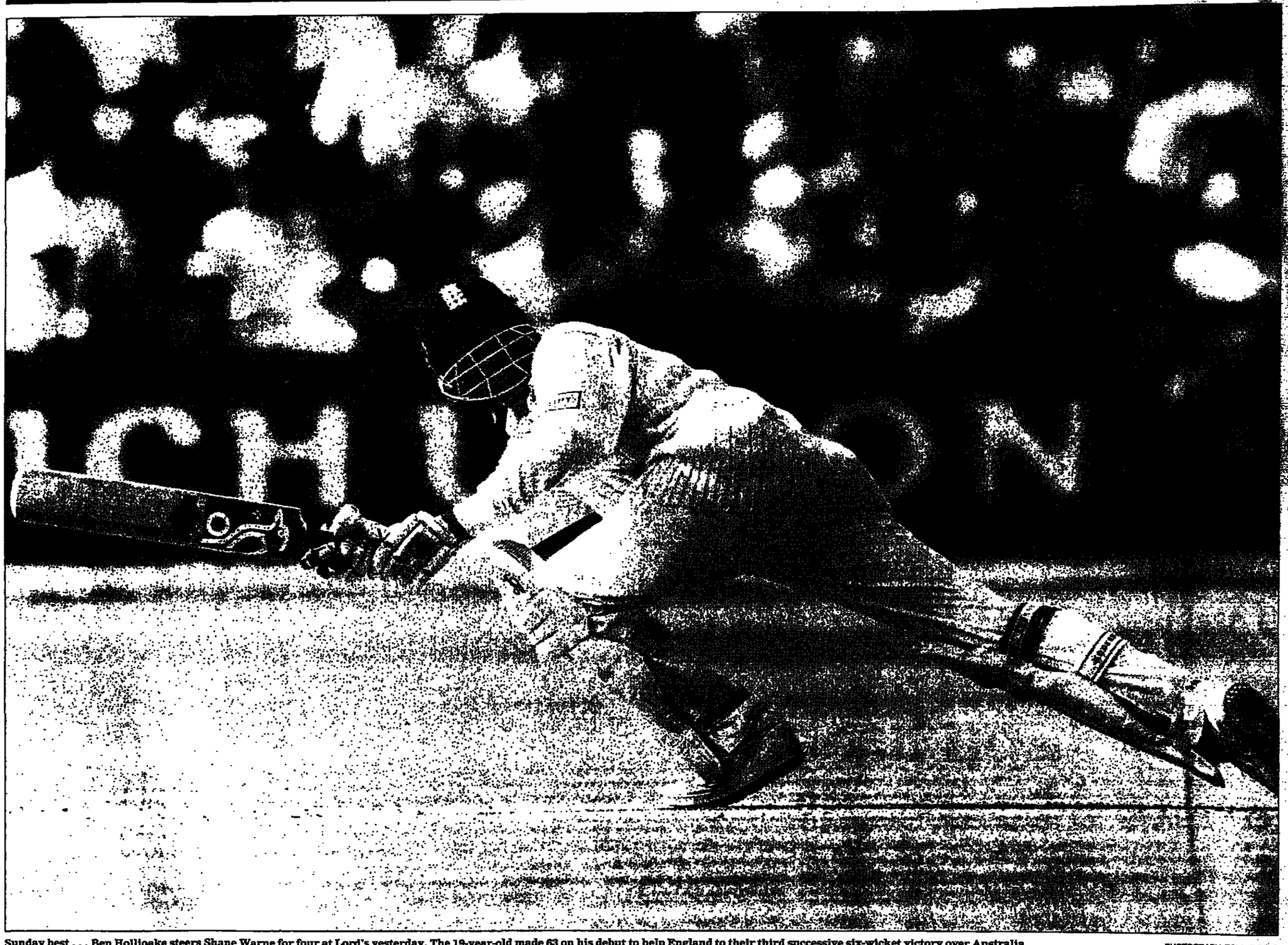
In the 5-page sports section

Broken dreams
Redknapp tumbles out of England's summer plans
page 15

Other pages
Racing 13/14
Grand Prix 15

The Guardian Sport
Monday May 26 1997

AUSTRALIA ARE BEATEN 3-0 IN THE TEXACO TROPHY



Sunday best . . . Ben Hollioake steers Shane Warne for four at Lord's yesterday. The 19-year-old made 63 on his debut to help England to their third successive six-wicket victory over Australia

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Big Ben strikes as England chime

Mike Selvey at Lord's

FOR one glorious, sunlit hour yesterday, when the runs were flowing like the lunchtime Pimms and a young man was making a name for himself, it was almost necessary to pinch oneself to make sure it was not just a dream. This was the day that Ben Hollioake, a lad whose county career has barely begun, became a man on the grandest stage against the toughest opposition.

Batting at number three, with a licence to thrill, he cocked a snook at reputations, clumping his second delivery straight back past the bemused Glenn McGrath — one of the world's premier pace bowlers — to rattle the pavilion rails.

In the next 46 balls he hit 10 more boundaries and a massive six hoisted over square leg off Shane Warne — one of the finest spinners to draw breath — before clipping a catch to backward point. As he walked off, the crowd stopped short of flinging their bats in the air, but they clapped, football style, above their heads, and some even cheered.

Hollioake, a tall fellow, raised his bat tentatively but stared at the ground through the grille of his new England helmet.

Had he been anyone else but a Hollioake, it might have been mistaken for embarrassment. Diffidence, however, does not feature in the family's vocabulary. For two matches it had been Adam easing himself into a key role in the England side as if sliding on to a stool next to a woman in a Battersea wine bar; it brought him England's man-of-the-series award.

But Adam has been around a bit — captain of the A side, skipper of Surrey. Ben is barely 19, and 19-year-old Englishmen do not bat first wicket down in internationals against Australia and certainly do not cane the bowling as if it were a benefit match.

If he had nerves, they did not show. McGrath was driven to distraction at times, once from down the wicket, and responded with a head-jerking bouncer; Warne was driven, too, and paddled delicately.

Michael Kasprowicz, the best of the Australian bowlers, had his moral successes as Hollioake joyously surfed a wave of good fortune, but the edges flew clear of Ian Healy's despairing dives.

Hollioake's innings shone brilliantly on a day resplendent with fine individual performances and resulted, neatly, in England's third successive six-wicket win. The Australian innings was dominated by a sublime 95 from Mark Waugh — 96 deliveries met with such elegance he could have been batting on a catwalk.

Darren Gough set Australia back at the start and he took Waugh's wicket when the twin was threatening to push the total beyond England's reach. Gough took five for 44 for the second time in his career and, on a day of toil for bowlers, it won him the man-of-the-match award.

Australia had made changes, with Mark Taylor deciding there was no further value in limited-overs cricket in his quest to find form, and Michael Slater joining him. The replacements, Matthew Elliott and Justin Langer, failed to take the chance as England won the toss once more, fielded ferociously again and caught like demons. Australia's score — 269 — was their highest of the series but it was below par for the conditions.

The younger Hollioake provided the catalyst for the England reply after Mike Atherton had survived a vehement appeal for a catch at the wicket, only to be lbw to Kasprowicz two balls later. Alec Stewart, on 18 when Hollioake arrived, was left standing in the space of 23 balls and, from roughly the same number of deliveries, made 19 out of 92 in 14 overs.

Hollioake's departure took the edge off the atmosphere but there was good batting to come as Stewart and John Crawley, who replaced Nick Knight in the side, added 80 for the third wicket, also in 14 overs. Stewart clipped Mark Waugh, in his first over of off-spin, to Langer on the deep midwicket boundary. It had been sensible rather than vibrant batting from Stewart, with 79 spread over 34 overs.

It was to England's advantage, however, that they always had one batsman set at the fall of a wicket and, with Crawley going well, Graham Thorpe was able to establish himself.

The pair might have seen the side home but a running mishap saw Crawley run out for 52, and it was left to Thorpe (45) and Hollioake senior to see things through. Hollioake pushed the winning run, as he had in the other games. "Oh, well," said Ben afterwards. "Big brothers always have the last word."

Lord's scoreboard

AUSTRALIA

M T G Elliott c A J Hollioake b Gough	1
M E Waugh lbw b Gough	95
*S R Waugh c Thorpe b Gough	17
M G Bevan c Sub b Gough	8
J L Langer run out	29
A C Gilchrist lbw b Ealham	33
†I A Healy c Lloyd b Croft	27
S K Warne c Stewart b Ealham	5
M S Kasprowicz not out	28
J N Gillespie c Thorpe b Gough	6
G D McGrath st Stewart b A J Hollioake	1
Extras (lb2, lb10, w5, nb2)	19
Total (49.2 overs)	269

Fall of wickets: 2, 52, 63, 142, 184, 218, 228, 242, 268.

Bowling: Gough 10-0-44-5; Silverwood 6-0-44-0; Ealham 10-0-47-2; Croft 10-0-51-1; B C Hollioake 7-0-36-0; A J Hollioake 6.2-0-35-1.

ENGLAND

*M A Atherton lbw b Kasprowicz	1
†A J Stewart c Langer b M E Waugh	79
B C Hollioake c S R Waugh b Gillespie	63
J P Crawley run out	52
G P Thorpe not out	45
A J Hollioake not out	4
Extras (lb9, w13, nb4)	26
Total (for 4, 49 overs)	270

Fall of wickets: 21, 113, 193, 253.

Did not bat: G D Lloyd, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, C E W Silverwood, D Gough.

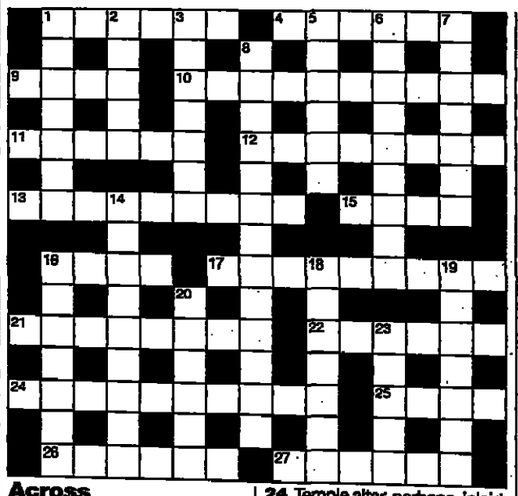
Bowling: McGrath 9-2-45-0; Kasprowicz 8-1-40-1; Warne 9-0-44-0; Gillespie 10-0-55-1; Bevan 3-0-27-0; S R Waugh 4-0-22-0; M E Waugh 6-0-29-1.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and G Sharp.

England won by six wickets and the series 3-0.

Guardian Crossword No 20,973

Set by Rufus



Across

1 Daphne's strange allure (6)
4 One way to work with figures (8)
9 They give a better price (4)
10 Grouse about a spring mattress lacking hair (10)
11 Tender relative (5)
12 Momentous as the Olympics, for example (8)
13 Not knowing about one caring (9)
15 Resistance units serving the Queen (4)
16 One may take rests with these shooting sticks (4)
17 Carriage entrance (9)
21 Drink I put down before going out (8)
22 The game's finished for a small number on the team (2,4)
24 Temple altar, perhaps, inlaid with nacre design (10)
25 Dance with a girl's best friend (4)
26 Made a home for a good man in want (6)
27 It often clashes with its own kind (6)

Down

1 Entering one's home (7)
2 Thrown out of bed earlier than arranged (5)
3 In upset state, Shakespeare's heartless heroine is trading places (7)
5 Caught by traffic light at bend in the road (6)
6 His plight may serve as a warning to sailors (9)
7 Mouth-organs (7)
8 Notes kept in a pocket-book, perhaps (5,8)
14 Those in charge love getting fresh reserves (9)
16 Hold I cannot break (7)
18 Home shared by unmarried sisters (7)
19 Politician, liar and cad, needs to reform (7)
20 Position in which a man takes notes (6)
23 Curbs straggling bushes (5)

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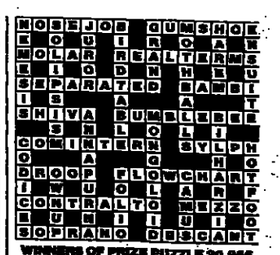

WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,966

This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Mrs M. D. Walker of Dorchester, Dorset, A. P. Symons of South Molton, Val Baker of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Eileen and Jack Robinson of London SE9, and Bernard Lewis of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

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